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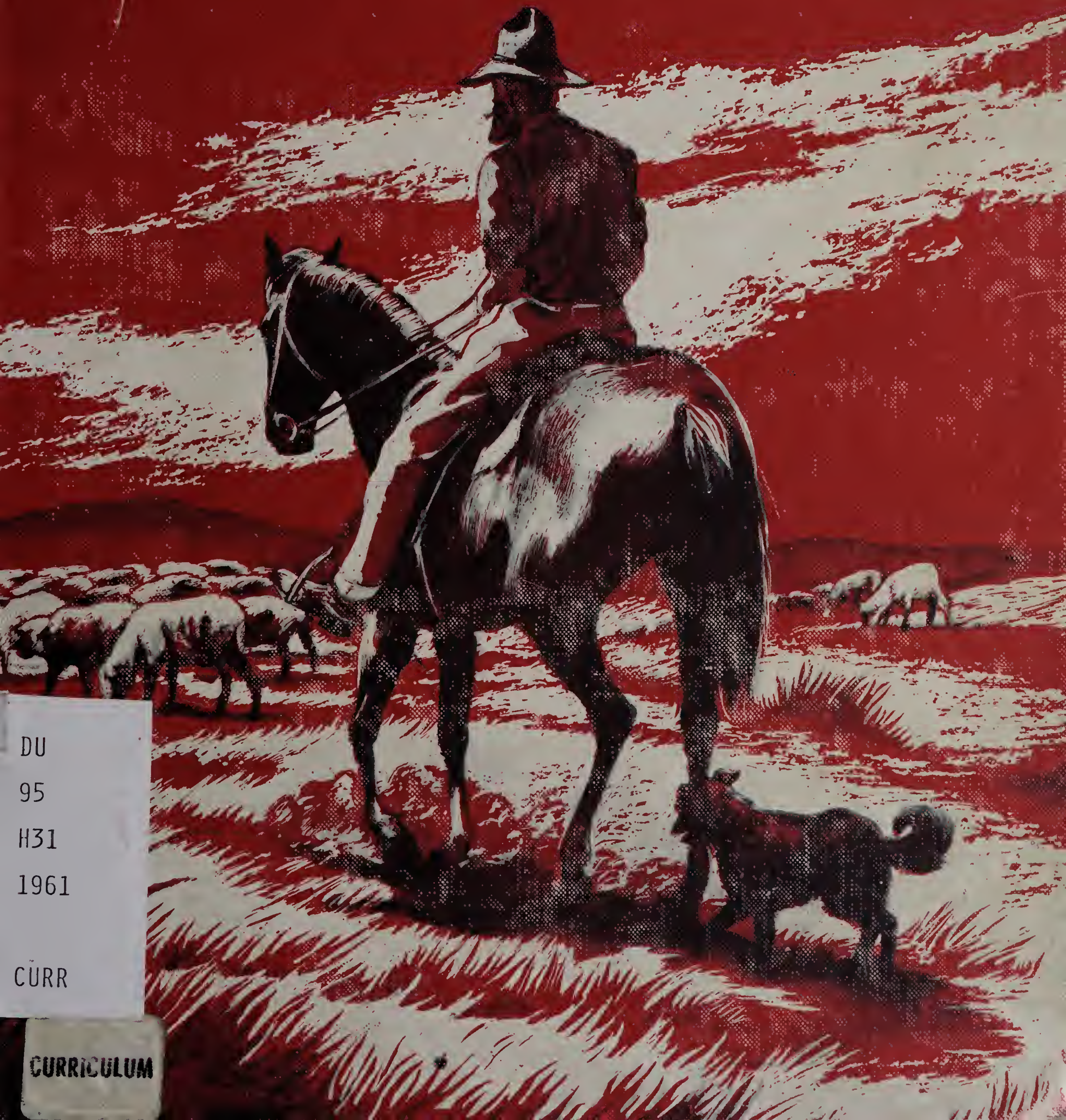
AUSTRALIA



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AUSTRALIA

DARWIN
NORTHERN TERRITORY
QUEENSLAND
Great Barrier Reef
SOUTH AUSTRALIA
BRISBANE
NEW SOUTH WALES
SYDNEY
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AUSTRALIA

Kilroy Harris
Leila Harris

Captain Kilroy Harris, D.S.O., F.R.G.S., is a native of Australia who has traveled extensively on this island continent. On one of his journeys through the "Outback," he rode 2,400 miles in a one-horse buggy, using the same horse for the entire distance. Captain Harris is a well-known lecturer and is the author of *Outback in Australia* and *Kangarooland*. Mrs. Harris, a former Canadian schoolteacher, has collaborated with her husband on several books. She has also had many stories and articles published in children's magazines.

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AUSTRALIA
JAPAN
CHINA
INDIA
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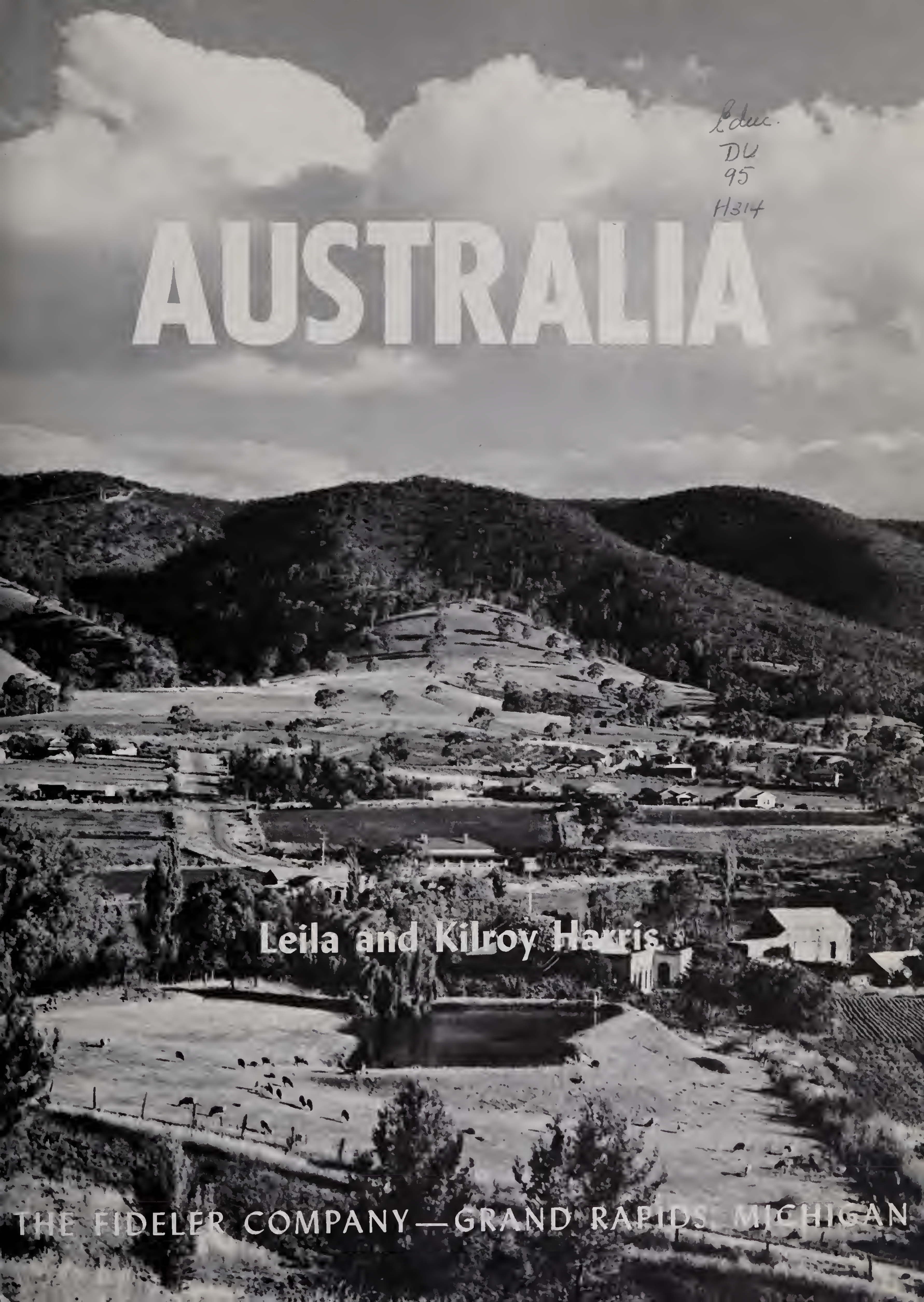

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AUSTRALIA

Leila and Kilroy Harris

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Sydney Morning Herald—Sydney, Australia: Pages 27, 59, and 65.

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TO THE TEACHER

There Are Only Two Effective Ways to Study Geography

There are only two effective ways for children to form the clear mental images needed to understand the geography of Australia. One is to take geography field trips through that country. The other is to use in the classroom many good geography pictures accompanied by vivid text.

A Better Way to Study Australia in Your Classroom

Arouse Interest and Help Students Think. Use five to ten copies of the *Australia* textbook and one copy of the *Australia* portfolio of Classroom Pictures (loose-leaf edition of the book) to interest your students in exploring Australia.

Keep Children Thinking. Divide the class into committees, each of which will seek answers to such questions as:

. . . What are the land and climate of Australia like?
. . . What are the people of Australia like?
. . . How do the people of Australia make a living?
(See list of chapters in this book.)

For its research work, let each committee use traditional textbooks and one or more copies of the *Australia* textbook, plus those chapters and pictures from the *Australia* portfolio that relate to the topic the committee is investigating.

When research has been completed, let each committee present its most important findings to the class. The committee should be questioned by the rest of the class and the teacher.

Give Every Child a Chance to Think and Learn. This *Australia* textbook is designed for use on three reading ability levels. (See next page.) When you use five to ten copies of the *Australia* textbook and the matching portfolio of Classroom Pictures in the manner described above, you give every child a chance to think and learn. Slow learners, children with average abilities, and students with superior minds are able to find answers to their questions and to form vivid mental images that are necessary for understanding the geography of Australia.

How to Meet the Learning Needs of Every Child

The editors of this book believe that the secret of successful learning lies in motivating the student to *think*. This fundamental principle has been effectively stated by John Dewey in his book *Democracy and Education:* "The sole path to enduring improvement in the methods of instruction and learning consists in centering upon the conditions which exact, promote, and test thinking. Thinking *is* the method of intelligent learning; of learning that employs and rewards the mind." Our great need is to lead students to think purposefully.

Purpose and Interest

Purpose and interest are the most important elements of thinking. To expect students to read and think about geography without first helping them find a purpose, or an interest, is to invite their failure. The first step in teaching geography should be to create a highly challenging environment that will arouse the natural curiosity of the students. The teacher may create this environment with the help of the proper learning aids. A good filmstrip or large pin-up-board pictures will let all the students of the class see vivid views of life in Australia. Good geography pictures are a powerful aid for creating interest and developing purpose on the part of the student. The clear, lighted pictures in a good filmstrip that shows vivid, fascinating views of Australia and its people appeal to every student's natural curiosity. If a filmstrip or a collection of good geography pictures about Australia is not available, the teacher can group the students in such a way that the entire class may share most effectively all of the copies of this textbook that are in the classroom. If the attention of each member of the class is centered on the same picture at the same time, the students as a group can enjoy visual experiences that are almost as satisfactory as those made possible by a filmstrip or bulletin board display.

Successful motivation will bring forth a number of questions to which the class will want to find answers. These questions should be recorded, discussed, and revised by the group. Those that offer a true challenge to the students' efforts open the way for a profitable study of Australia.

[A portfolio of geography pictures of Australia size 9-1/4" x 12-3/16" has been published for use with this book and other geography textbooks. It may be secured from Informative Classroom Picture Publishers, Grand Rapids 2, Michigan. (*Australia*—48 plates—$3.95.) Sixteen chapters of loose - leaf text are included for reference use by the students.]

Three Levels of Reading Ability

This book is designed for use on three ability levels, to help the teacher provide for the great differences in reading ability found in the average class. It provides a means for purposeful investigation and purposeful reading by students on each of the following ability levels:

1 — A few of the students will read purposefully only the pictures, some of the maps, and many of the captions.

2 — Most of the students will read the pictures and the captions, the maps, and much of the text.

3 — Some will read all of the text, the pictures and their captions, and the maps.

In each class there will be a few students who will read the book most effectively on the first level only. Each of these students urgently needs a copy of the book for his individual use. The challenging pictures and captions in each chapter make it possible for these students to share many important learning experiences. The teacher will be pleased to observe how much essential information is gained and what thought-provoking experiences are shared by these students, even though they are reading at the first level.

In the average geography class in which Australia is studied, nearly every student will be able to use this book successfully. At various times, as the study progresses, each student will read at one or more of these ability levels. All will make the same trip through Australia and will gain valuable experiences in geography. As a result, they will be able to participate more effectively in group discussion and in group activity, based on an understanding of the important features of Australia.

How Many Copies Are Needed?

Each teacher must answer the question: "How many copies of this book are needed for my class?" Each teacher must personally assume responsibility for securing the learning aids that will enable his students to learn successfully. If the class is divided into committees, as described on the preceding page, as few as five books and one portfolio can effectively serve a class of thirty students.

The Editors

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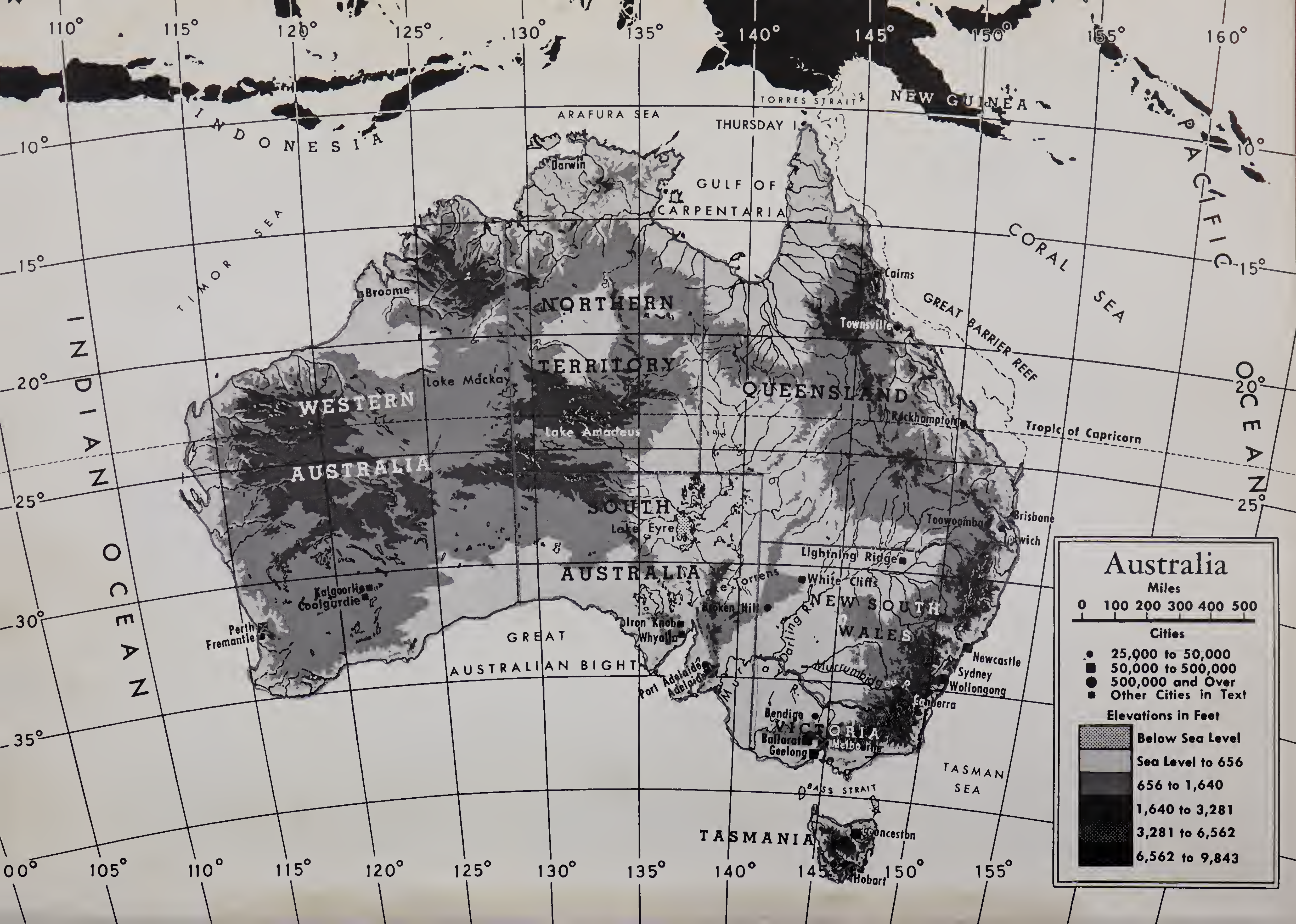
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Cities
• 25,000 to 50,000
■ 50,000 to 500,000
● 500,000 and Over
▪ Other Cities in Text
Elevations in Feet
Below Sea Level
Sea Level to 656
656 to 1,640
1,640 to 3,281
3,281 to 6,562
6,562 to 9,843
INDONESIA
NEW GUINEA
TORRES STRAIT
THURSDAY I.
ARAFURA SEA
TIMOR SEA
GULF OF CARPENTARIA
CORAL SEA
PACIFIC OCEAN
GREAT BARRIER REEF
Tropic of Capricorn
INDIAN OCEAN
GREAT AUSTRALIAN BIGHT
TASMAN SEA
BASS STRAIT
TASMANIA
WESTERN AUSTRALIA
NORTHERN TERRITORY
QUEENSLAND
SOUTH AUSTRALIA
NEW SOUTH WALES
VICTORIA
Darwin
Broome
Loke Mackay
Lake Amadeus
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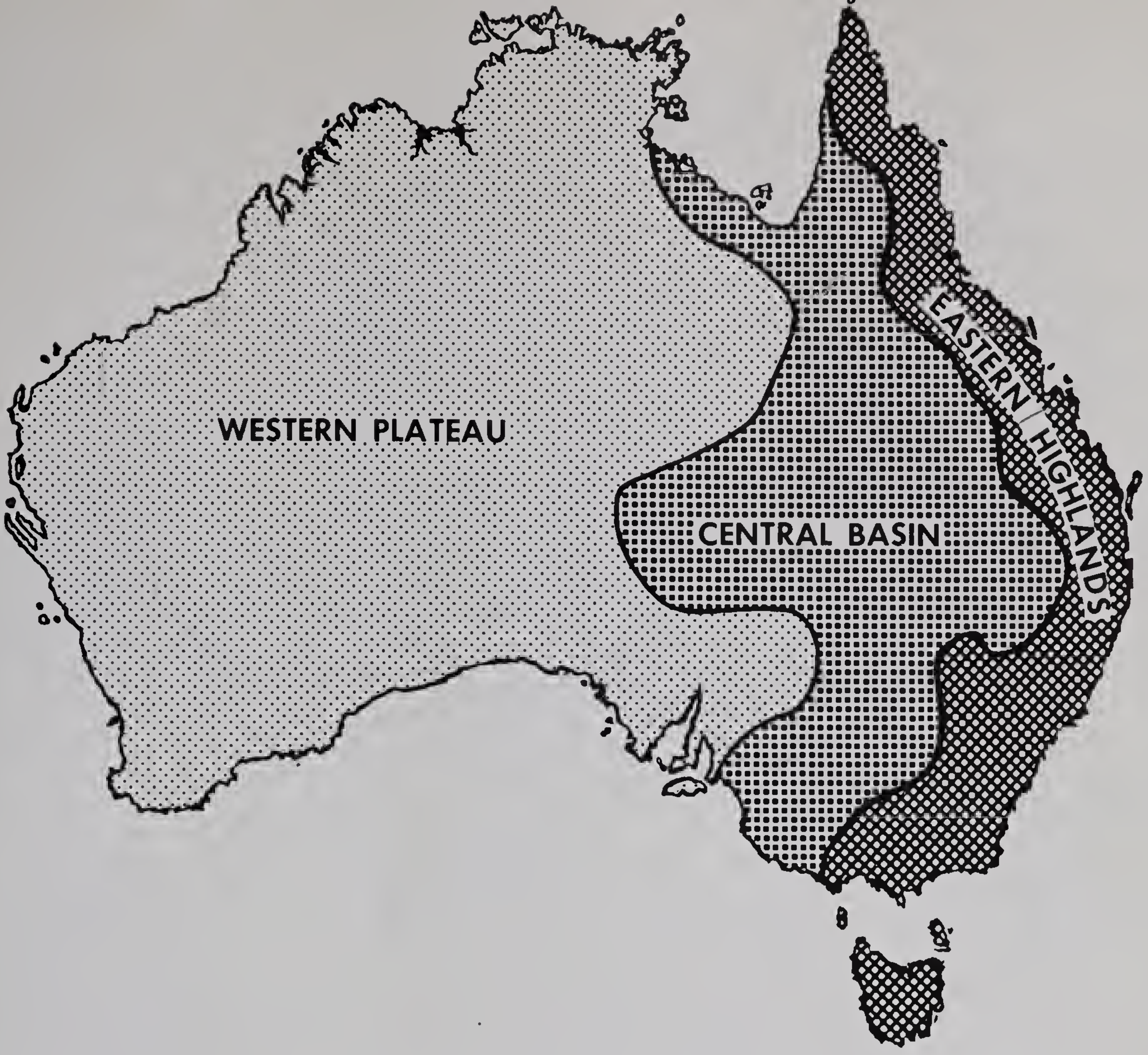
IN THE BLUE MOUNTAINS OF AUSTRALIA'S EASTERN HIGHLANDS

CHAPTER ONE

THE LAND

Australians love their country for many things, but mostly because of its delightful climate. Warm summers, mild winters, and lots of sunshine are typical. Because Australia lies in the Southern Hemisphere, the summer months are December, January, and February; the chilly months are June, July, and August. The northern part of this island continent lies nearest the equator; thus Australians think of the north as their tropical section. In Australia, "going south" means going to the cooler region.



AUSTRALIA'S NATURAL REGIONS

Because of its geography, Australia is divided into three natural sections. First, there is the Eastern Highland Section, which stretches along the eastern coast from north to south. This is a strip of well-wooded and well-watered land. Stretching south from the lower tip of the Gulf of Carpentaria is the huge Central Basin. Through its southern part flow Australia's two greatest rivers, the Murray and the Darling. This Central Basin was once a sea bed, but it is now filled with sediment. West of the Central Basin is the Western Plateau. Along its northeastern edges are grassy tablelands that support cattle, but the central portion, extending south and westward, is sandy and dry. It is often called the "Dead Heart" of Australia. In this region primitive aborigines still roam.

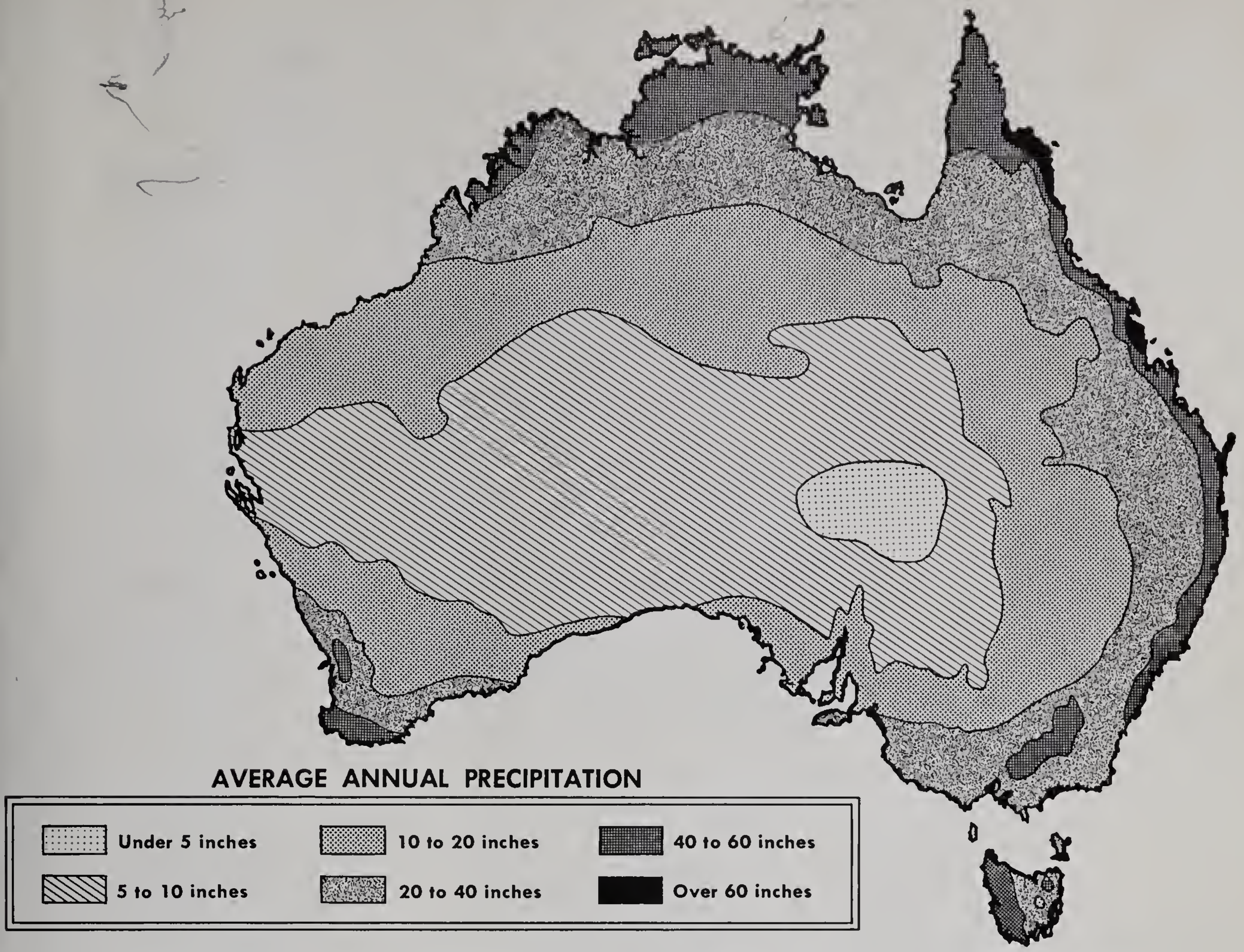
THE FLINDERS MOUNTAINS IN SOUTHERN AUSTRALIA

CAMELS IN THE "DEAD HEART" REGION

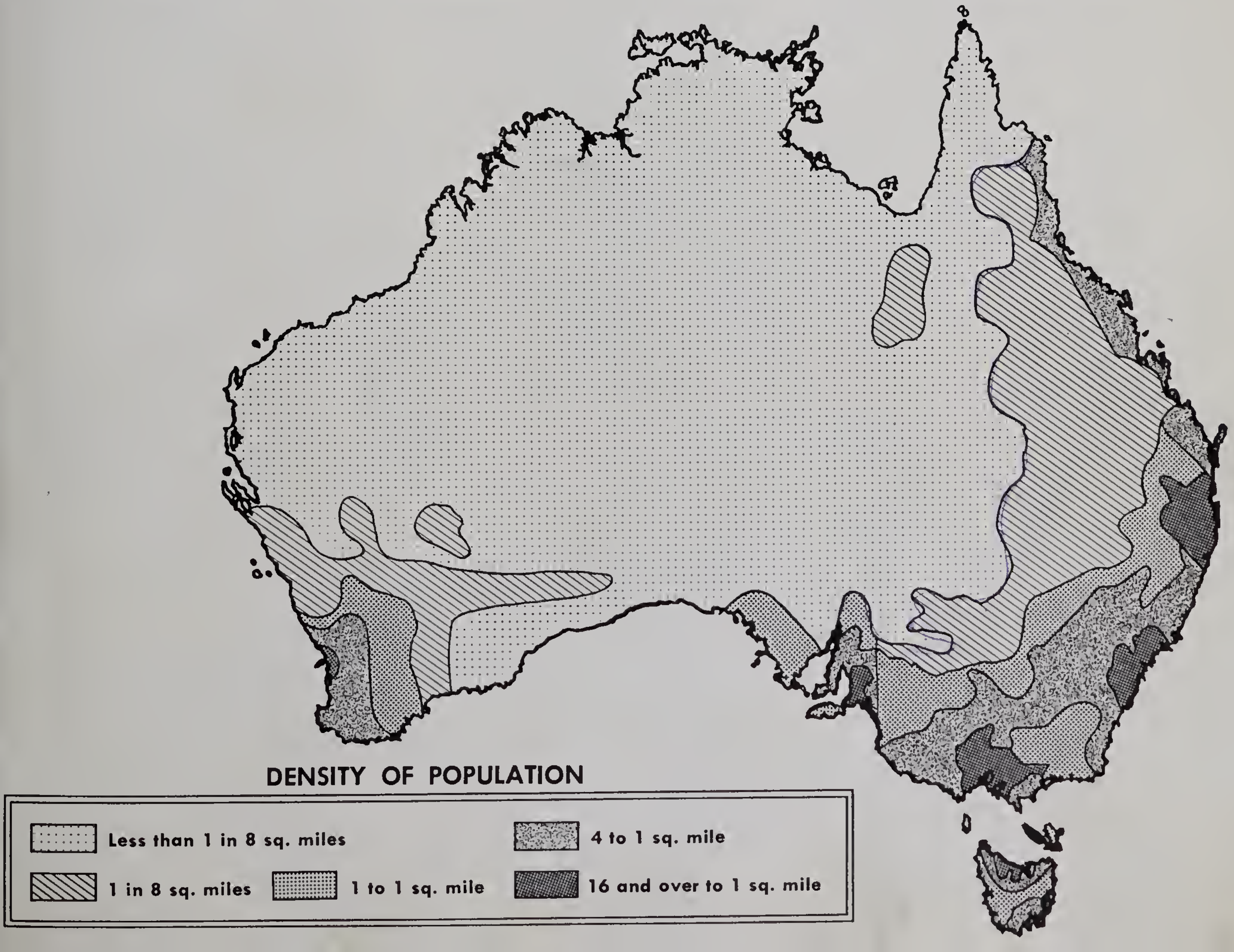
Australia's main river system is that of the Murray, Darling, and Murrumbidgee, in the southeastern part. These three rivers drain an area larger than France. In the interior are many small rivers that flow after rains, but which are usually only strings of water holes. Many of these rivers lose themselves in the sand. Along the eastern seaboard there are many rivers suitable for navigation for short distances.

Australia's largest lake is Lake Eyre, a salt-water lake which lies below sea level in the Central Basin. Most of the year it holds little water, because the rivers which feed it lose their water in the sand.

But Australia has an underground lake, called the "Great Artesian Basin," which is below a large area of the plains and



AVERAGE ANNUAL PRECIPITATION



DENSITY OF POPULATION

desert. The excess rainfall in eastern Queensland seeps through the porous limestone rock and is stored in this immense artesian basin. More than eight thousand bores tap this huge cistern and supply water for sheep and cattle stations, some of which could not otherwise support their flocks and herds.

Desert land covers about two fifths of Australia. This dry region is the second largest desert area in the world. Only the Sahara Desert of North Africa is larger. One section in Central Australia receives less than five inches of rainfall each year. (See rainfall map on page 11.) Winds from the sea lose most of their moisture as they pass over the coastal highlands, and very little rain reaches the interior of Australia.

Extending along the northeast coast of Queensland for about

HARVESTING SUGAR CANE IN AUSTRALIA'S TROPICAL REGION

GREEN ISLE, PART OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

a thousand miles, and from twenty to one hundred and fifty miles from the mainland, is the Great Barrier Reef. It is built of coral and rests upon a shelf which reaches far out from the mainland. The reef is "alive," and is still being formed by the tiny polyps that build it with their bodies. The coloring of the reef — pink, mauve, green, and blue — is rivaled in beauty only by the tropical fish that swim about in the lagoons.

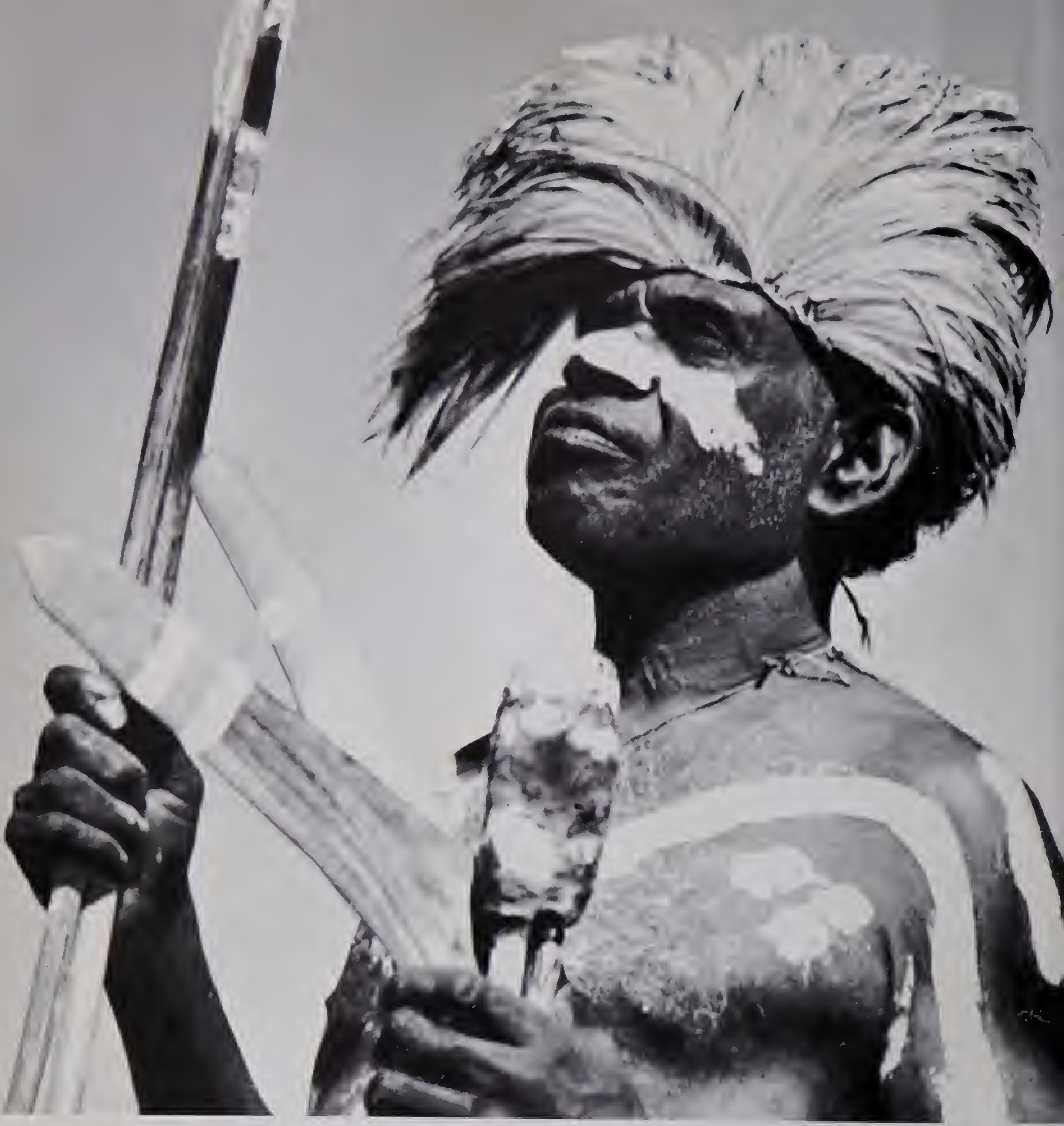
CHAPTER TWO

THE ABORIGINES OF AUSTRALIA

Most visitors to Australia would never see the aborigines. Australians call them blackfellows, or blacks. When the white men first settled in Australia, the aborigines were found in the fertile, well-wooded coastal areas. But the blacks soon learned that the white men were really their enemies. They were occupying their towris, or hunting lands, and were frightening away or killing their wild game. So the aborigines took the only possible course they had, which was moving farther inland. Now visitors must go outback, into the far interior, to see the natives still following their old tribal customs and living in their primitive ways.

But a visitor to a large cattle station would be able to see aboriginal stockmen and trackers. Many graziers, as the white station owners are called, admit that they have learned much from the blackfellows. Black-trackers can follow cattle tracks in the bush where a white man could not detect them with a magnifying glass. These same trackers know where to find water in country that seems absolutely waterless. They know where to dig in the sand for a "soak," where rock holes which have been filled by rain water might be found, and what trees store water in their roots. They know where to find frogs that distend themselves with water in the wet season so that they may live buried in the dry mud until the next rain.

ABORIGINES WITH A BOOMERANG AND SPEARS

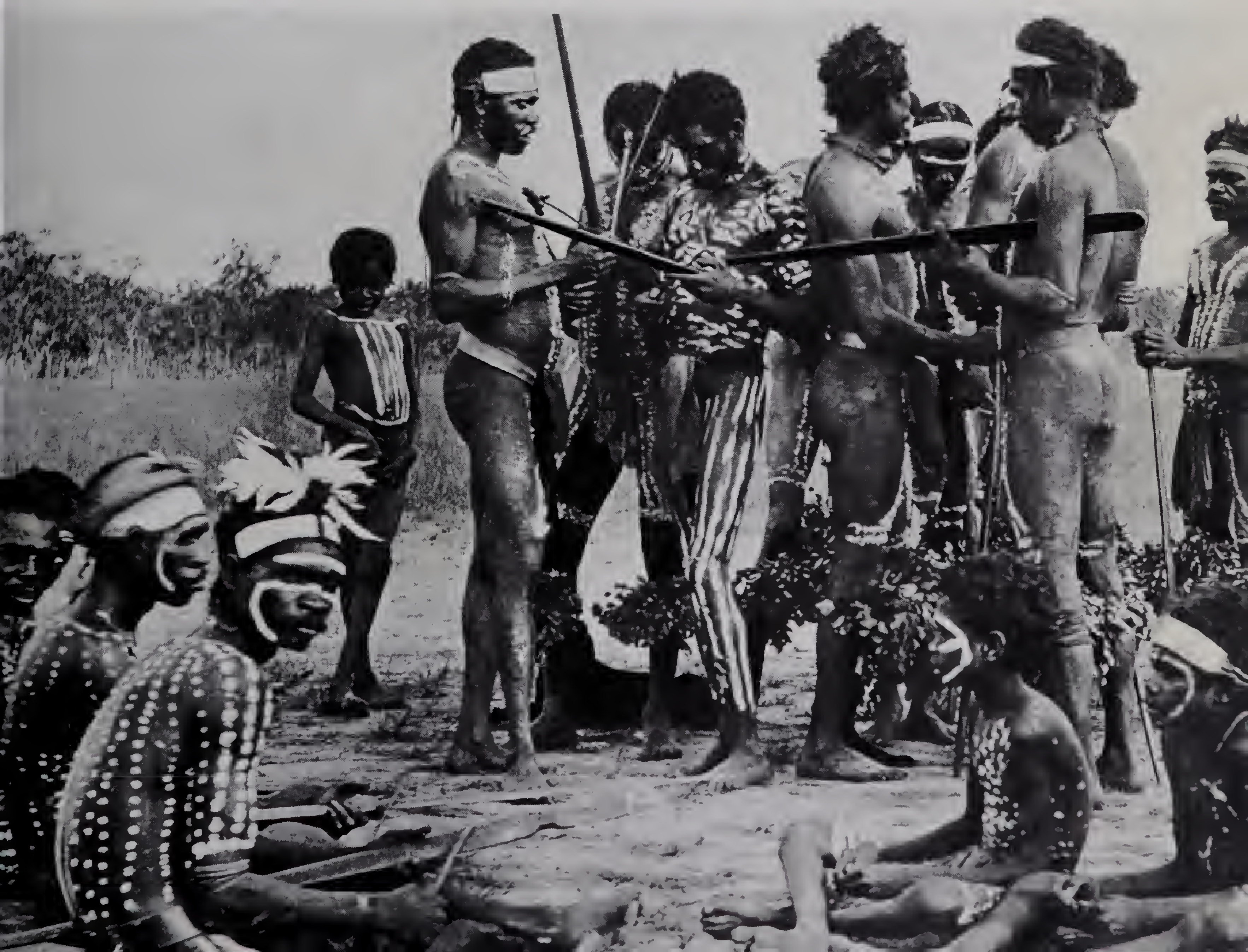


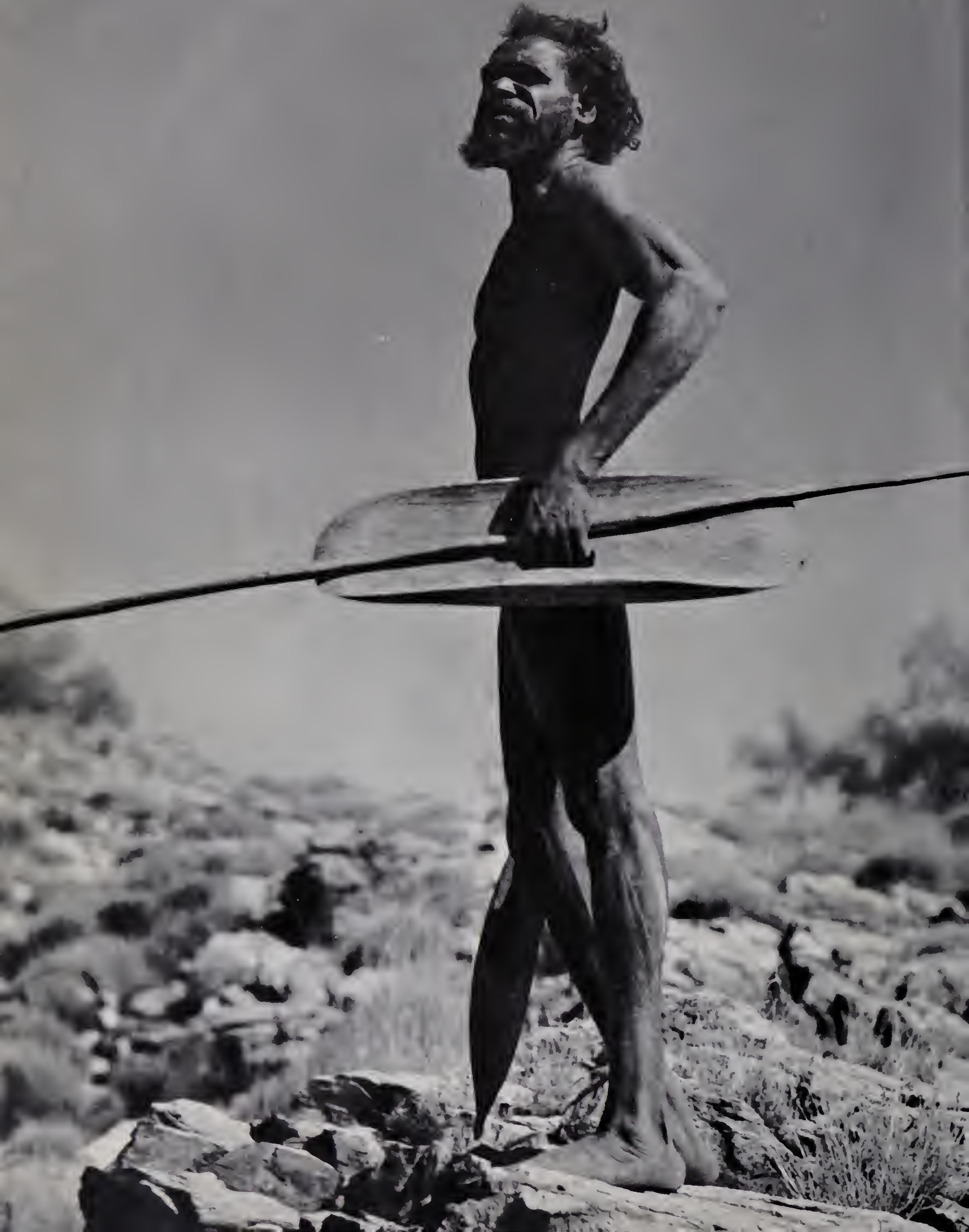
AN ABORIGINE WITH EMU FEATHER HEADDRESS

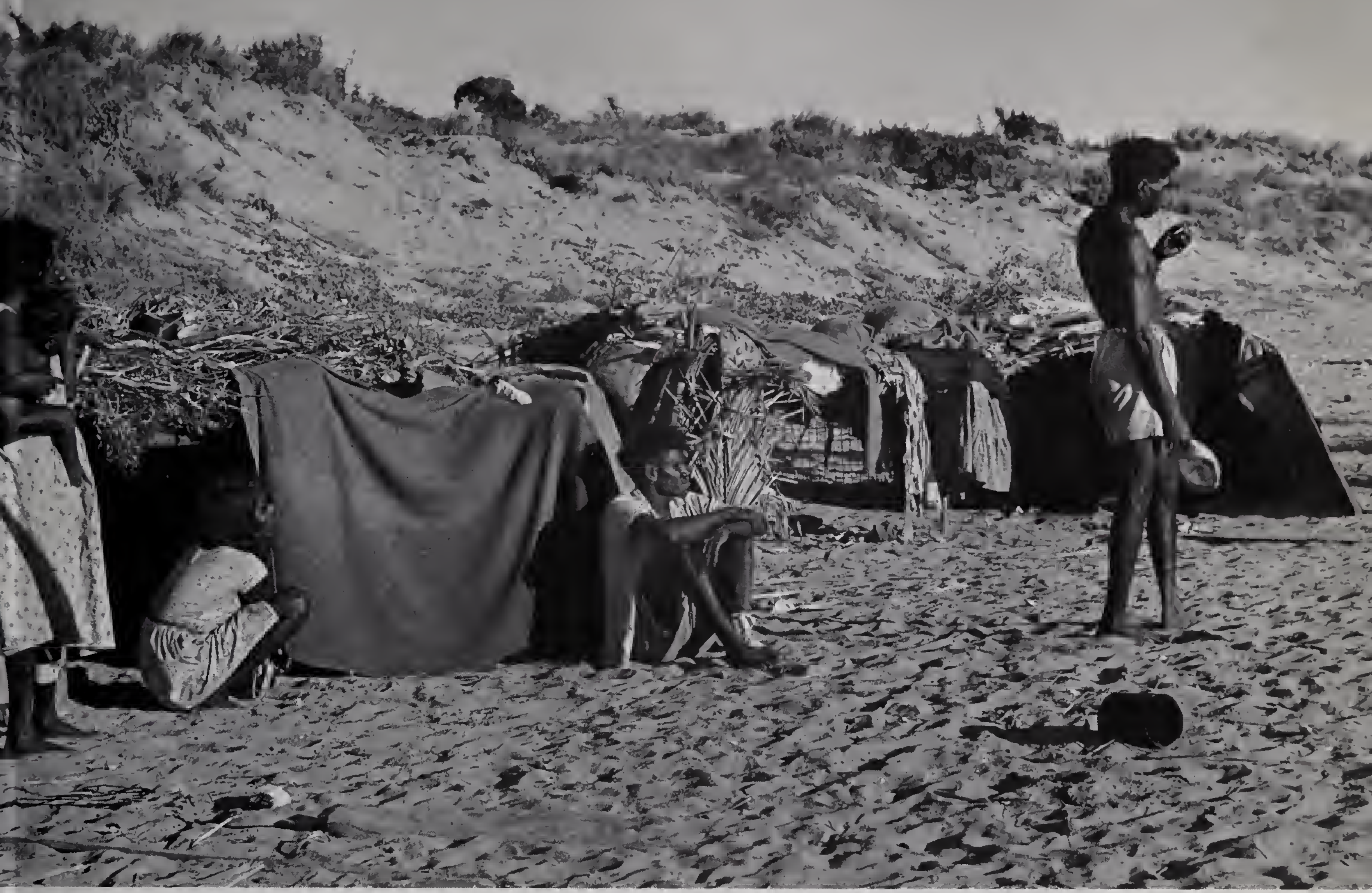
It is in their native state that the aborigines are most interesting. Because the early white settlers found them a nomadic or wandering people, who tilled no land, tended no flocks, and still had only stone or wooden tools, they have been considered Stone Age people. There are many different tribes, each with its own dialect and tribal rites or religion. But all of them worship some *power* in the skies and believe that their dances and ceremonies have some effect on that *power*. Like the North American Indians, they believe that they can bring rain through their corroboree, or sacred dance. They also believe that they can keep off evil spirits in the same way. For these corroborees, or sacred dances, they decorate their bodies with white clay. They prick themselves with sharp stones until the blood flows, and then stick feathers to the drying blood. Sometimes they adorn themselves with kangaroo hides and snake skins.

For food they depend upon what they can find in the "bush," whether it be the dense "big scrub" or desert. They eat roots, berries, seeds, grubs, snakes, kangaroos, emus, and fish. Along

ABORIGINES PREPARING FOR A CORROBOREE







ABORIGINES AND THEIR CRUDE SHELTERS

the northern coastline they find turtles and turtle eggs. Meat usually is cooked on hot coals. Grass seeds are ground into a kind of flour, from which a rough sort of bread is made.

When they are wandering from one hunting ground to another, they sleep in the open, with no covering at all. When they camp for a time, they make rough huts, called gunyahs or wurleys, out of branches. They have never used anything to compare with the North American Indian tepee or wigwam, nor have they ever built kraals like those used by the natives of South Africa.

They are experts in the use of their native weapons. They can throw a boomerang in such a way that it will return to the hand that threw it.

AN ABORIGINE HUNTER. MANY ABORIGINES
STILL USE WEAPONS AND TOOLS MADE
OF STONE OR WOOD

CAPTAIN JAMES COOK CLAIMED AUSTRALIA FOR ENGLAND

CHAPTER THREE

THE DISCOVERY AND EXPLORATION OF AUSTRALIA

Although Dutch and other navigators had visited Australia more than a century before Captain James Cook, the latter is often given credit for discovering Australia. In 1770, Cook sighted the eastern shore of Australia and claimed the country for England. Fortunately, Cook landed in the section of Australia which promised most value economically. The earlier navigators had landed in the northern and western sections, which seemed to them worthless.

It was not until England lost her American colonies in the Revolutionary War, however, that attention was turned to the colonization of Australia. In those days it was customary to use colonies as penal settlements, to which were banished prisoners. Many of these prisoners had been convicted of very minor offenses. For about eighty years there were several penal settlements in Australia.

In 1788, a fleet of eleven small sailing ships arrived at Botany Bay, under the command of Governor Arthur Phillip. On board these ships were about one thousand people. A few days after the landing at Botany Bay, Governor Phillip led the colonists to the present site of Sydney. It was a long, hard struggle to

GOVERNOR PHILLIP RAISING THE BRITISH FLAG AT SYDNEY COVE

THE HARBOR AT SYDNEY IN 1810

develop the new colony. English tradesmen finally joined these first settlers, and gradually English capital was invested in "opening up" the new land.

Then followed a stirring period of exploration. The Blue Mountains, which separate the eastern coastal lands from the vast interior, were crossed by Blaxland, Wentworth, and Lawson, who deserve credit for discovering the fine pasture lands beyond the densely timbered mountains. Men like Hume, Hovell, Eyre, Sturt, Stuart, and many others, contributed exciting chapters to the fascinating story of what was long known as *terra incognita,* the unknown land.

In 1844, a German scientist named Leichhardt made his way across northern Australia from the Darling Downs in Queensland to a point near where the town of Darwin now is located, in

THIS PAINTING PICTURES BOURKE STREET IN MELBOURNE ABOUT 1887

northwestern Australia. A few years later, in another attempt to cross the continent, Leichhardt and his party disappeared in the vast "never-never" lands of the interior. Their complete story was never written, and what they encountered will remain among the unsolved mysteries of Australia's history.

Many volumes could be written about the adventures of the early Australian explorers. Chief among them were Burke and Wills, who journeyed overland from Melbourne to the Gulf of Carpentaria, and Kennedy, who explored the Cape York Peninsula.

These early explorers endured many hardships. In their fight against drought, food shortage, and the wild aborigines in the huge expanse of desert regions, they showed a bravery not outdone by pioneers in the history of any country.

THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

CHAPTER FOUR

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE

In the top left corner of the Australian flag is a Union Jack, showing that Australia is a member of the British Commonwealth of Nations. On a blue background there are six stars, five of them in the form of the Southern Cross. The sixth star is larger, and its seven points represent the six states and the Australian Capital Territory.

Australia is one of the great democracies. The Australian people rule by voting, and they are governed by their own cabinet and prime minister. The prime minister has much the

AUSTRALIA'S HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT IS LOCATED IN CANBERRA same duties as the president of the United States. Each of the six states — New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia, and Tasmania — has its own state government. The Northern Territory has representation in the federal government.

The six states were self-governing colonies until 1901, when they were united to form the Commonwealth of Australia.

The permanent seat of the federal government is Canberra, situated in the Australian Capital Territory, just as Washington is in the District of Columbia, which belongs to no state. On the stock runs of yesterday, the first federal parliament to meet at Canberra was opened in 1927 by King George VI, then Duke of York. Previously, while the federal capital was being built, the federal parliament had met at Melbourne.

AUSTRALIANS VOTE BY SECRET BALLOT

CHILDREN BETWEEN THE AGES OF SIX AND FOURTEEN MUST ATTEND SCHOOL

Australian cities are among the cleanest, the most attractive, and the most up-to-date in the world. None are overcrowded (as overcrowding is known in other countries), and slums are very few. Throughout Australian cities there is an air of well-being and prosperity. Wealth is more evenly distributed there than in any other country except New Zealand. Australia has comparatively few very rich people and few very poor people. The Australian, generally, does not like to live in the city. He prefers to live in the suburbs.

More than ~~ten~~ 13 million people live in Australia, a small population for such a large country. Eighty-six per cent of the people

CITY HALL IN BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND

are Australian-born, and over ninety per cent of the total population are of British stock.

When we remember that more than half of the Australian people live in the capital cities, we wonder what these people do for a living. Before World War II, Australia did not manufacture sufficient goods either for her own use or to send abroad in large quantities, so she was not thought of as a great industrial country. Her exports were confined almost entirely to wool, wheat, meat, fruit, and dairy produce. The war, however, caused a great industrial development in Australia. But Australians do not hope to supply many of the world's manufactured goods. They hope rather to supply their own needs and thus make themselves independent of countries from which in the past they have had to import many manufactured items.

A STEEL MILL AT NEWCASTLE, NEW SOUTH WALES

SAILING IN SYDNEY HARBOR

Because of the generally warm climate, Australians enjoy outdoor life and sports throughout the entire year. Many of them live along the coast and spend much of their leisure time at the beaches. Most Australians are very fond of water sports of all kinds.

If an American should visit Melbourne during Cup Week, he would think that all Australians like horse racing best of all. The Melbourne Cup is the occasion for one of the greatest social events of the year. If he got to Australia for an International Test cricket match, he could easily imagine that the whole population of Australia had turned out to see the struggle between an Australian team and one from England.

A SUMMER DAY AT BONDI BEACH IN
SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES

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SYDNEY HARBOR

CHAPTER FIVE

THE HARBOR AND CITY OF SYDNEY

Australia boasts of having the finest harbor in the world, at Sydney, capital of New South Wales. Guarding the entrance to Port Jackson, the bay on which Sydney is located, are three headlands — North, South, and Middle. They are known as the "Heads." They look like giant fingers reaching out into the water to grasp the toylike boats which attempt to sail past them. But to us they are not toy boats; they are giant ocean liners from all parts of the world.

Sydney Harbor really consists of quite a number of smaller harbors. Before the passenger disembarks at Circular Quay or Darling Harbor, his ship has sailed sixteen miles inland from the "Heads." It has passed many lovely inlets and bays, on the sloping banks of which are beautiful homes and gardens. Here many of the people of Sydney live to escape the busy city life. Small ferryboats ply back and forth, carrying the people from Manly, Mosman, and other harbor suburbs into Sydney.

THE HARBOR AT SYDNEY IS ONE OF THE FINEST IN THE WORLD

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY IS THE OLDEST UNIVERSITY IN AUSTRALIA

Sydney has built a mammoth bridge which straddles the harbor in one colossal span from a point near Circular Quay to the North Shore. It is constructed to carry four lines of electric railway traffic, six lines of vehicular traffic, and two footways.

One of the first strange things an American would notice in an Australian city is that traffic keeps to the left instead of to the right. The American might not understand if told by someone to wait at a certain corner for a "tram." Learning that a tram

A STREET IN SYDNE

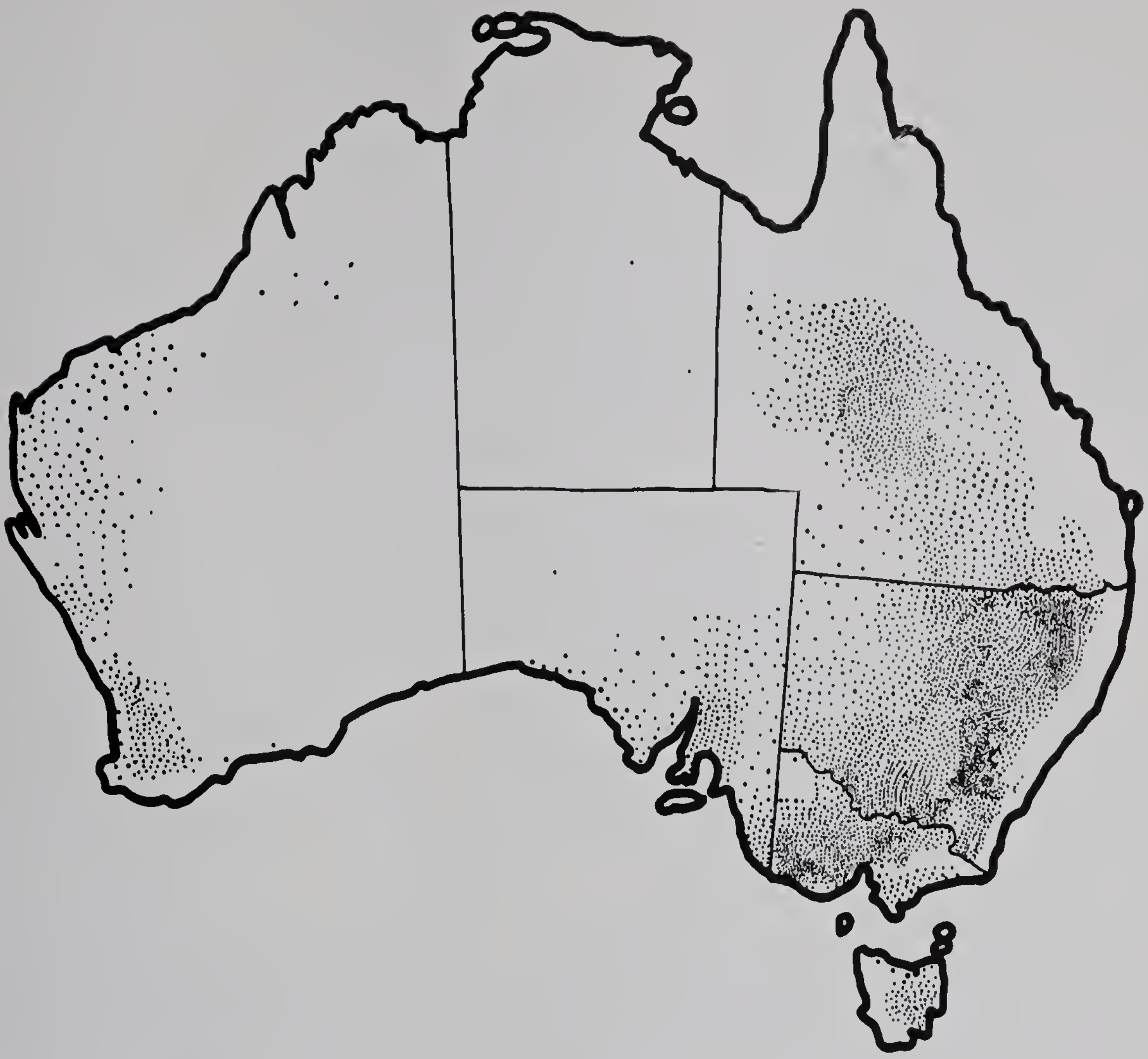
COLES
GIBB & BEEMAN
KODAK
GOWINGS
COLES
CRUNCH
TAXI TRUCK
500
371 TRAVEL GOODS

CIRCULAR QUAY, SYDNEY

in Australia is the same as a streetcar in America, he would soon get into the habit of inquiring about trams instead of streetcars. He would discover that an Australian "lift" is exactly the same as an elevator. The thing that would puzzle him most is the Australian money system. After doing some shopping, however, he would become accustomed to pounds, shillings, and pence.

CARS ON SYDNEY HARBOR BRIDGE

Generally speaking, the people of Australia are very much like the people of America. They speak the English language, wear similar clothes, eat similar food, read the same books, see the same movies, and go to the same kind of churches. Walking along the streets of Sydney, an American could easily imagine he was "back home" in an American city.



DISTRIBUTION OF AUSTRALIA'S 152,000,000 SHEEP

CHAPTER SIX

WOOLGROWING IN AUSTRALIA

Although Australia is a very large country, it has very few people — about as many as live in the state of Illinois. But Australia has another population which is very large and very valuable — 152 million sheep.

Many American children wear clothing made from Australian wool. Australia supplies more than one fourth of the world's wool requirements. Woolgrowing is Australia's chief industry, and wool is its most valuable export.

HERDING SHEEP AND WOOLGROWING IS AUSTRALIA'S CHIEF INDUSTRY

AFTER SHEARING — SHEEP WITH THEIR OWNER'S MARK

If you wish to see some of Australia's finest merino sheep, visit a sheep station in the state of New South Wales. American children would call the property a ranch, but Australians never use that term. The largest merino stud sheep station in the world is in New South Wales. It covers 520,000 acres and supports 120,000 sheep. Wool production averages about ten pounds per sheep annually.

Although the sheep need protection from their natural enemies — the rabbit, the dingo, and the drought — they need no protection from heat or cold. With the help of only a few men, horses, and dogs, the station owner can handle a very large flock until it is shearing time. Then he has the help of professional shearers who travel from station to station. On all stations the

IN THE SHEARING SHED

BALES OF WOOL IN A WOOL MARKET AT PORT ADELAIDE

shearers use electric shears, and some of the best workers can shear three hundred sheep in one day.

In the shearing sheds experts sort the wool and grade it as to quality. Then it is packed in square bales covered with burlap. In districts served by good roads, motor lorries (trucks) haul the wool to a railway siding, where it is loaded on flat, open cars. Years ago, the wool bales from stations far in the interior were brought to the railroad station in wagons. These were drawn by bullocks. In the dry parts of Australia, even camels were used. Today, however, trucks are almost always used.

The station owners, who are called graziers, must continually fight the three enemies of sheep: the dingo (wild dog), the rabbit, and the drought.

The dingo raids flocks of sheep in Australia much as the coyote does on western ranches in America. He kills for the joy of killing. In one night a dingo might kill fifty defenseless ewes

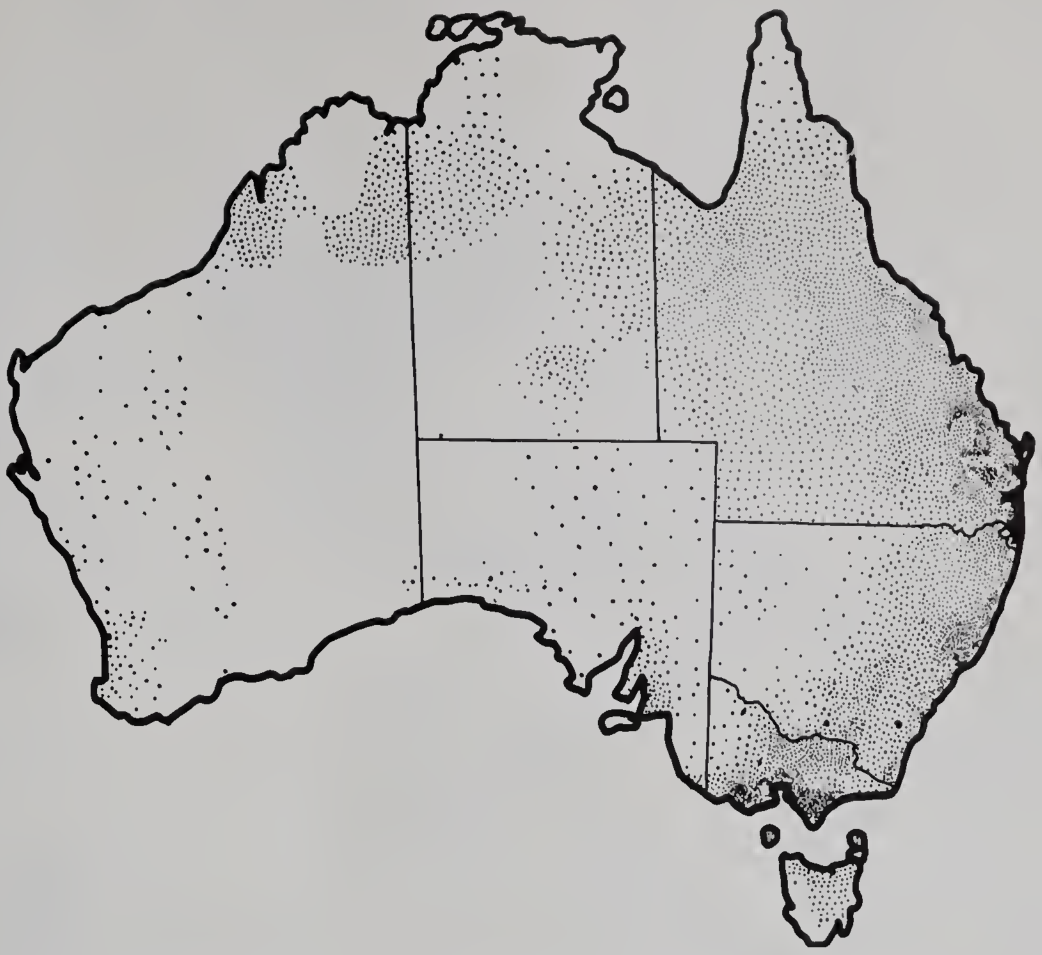
AN EXPERT GRADING WOOL

and lambs. Many stations employ professional dingo trappers, called doggers, who hunt and trap these wild dogs.

In the United States, children think of rabbits as pets or as harmless woodland creatures. In Australia they are great pests because they eat so much of the grass which the sheep and cattle should have. The graziers build rabbit-proof fences and kill as many rabbits as they can. They poison them, plow up their underground burrows, and they even have introduced a contagious disease that kills only rabbits.

In the long dry season, from October to March, the sun parches the grass, but the sheep thrive because they eat grass roots, and seeds that they find on the ground.

LOADING WOOL FOR EXPORT



DISTRIBUTION OF AUSTRALIA'S 16,000,000 CATTLE

CHAPTER SEVEN

THE CATTLE DROVERS

The American cowboy is unknown in Australia, but the cattle drovers have as much allure for Australian boys as the cowboys have for American boys. Instead of "riding the range," Australian stockmen muster their cattle on the "runs," the vast pasture lands of the huge herds of cattle. The largest cattle stations are in the northern portion of the far interior. An American child could hardly visualize an Australian cattle station larger than the state of Massachusetts. These are the largest cattle stations in the world.

Australia has very few miles of railroad in proportion to the size of the country. It is easy to realize, therefore, that these

large cattle stations, where very few people live, are not well served by railways, or even the kind of roads with which Americans are familiar. But they do have roads which serve their purposes best. They are very broad roads, not merely four or five car lanes wide but half a mile wide. They are not paved or graveled, and usually they are not fenced, but they are carpeted with grass and saltbush. They are government-controlled "Travelling Stock Routes," and the condition of the T.S.R.'s forms the main topic of conversation when drovers meet. At regular intervals along these T.S.R.'s the government has sunk artesian bores to supply water for the "travelers," which sometimes come in herds, called "mobs," a thousand strong.

The cattle must be driven slowly, allowing time for grazing, so

AUSTRALIAN CATTLE DROVERS COUNTING CATTLE IN VICTORIA

CATTLE PENS IN SOUTHEASTERN QUEENSLAND

that they will not lose their fat and become unmarketable. Sometimes a mob will travel three months before reaching a railway, which will carry the cattle to the nearest meat-packing plant. From such a plant huge quantities of frozen meat are exported annually.

These long, overland journeys "on the hoof" in outback Australia are only part of the stockman's adventures. At home on the cattle station there is plenty of excitement, especially during the "drafting" season, when the cattle to be sent to market are "cut out" from the main mobs.

Australia has more than sixteen million head of cattle. They roam over the stations all the year. Many of the larger stations are not fenced. It is seldom necessary to put the cattle in barns, or to feed them hay or silage. Australia's warm climate accounts for

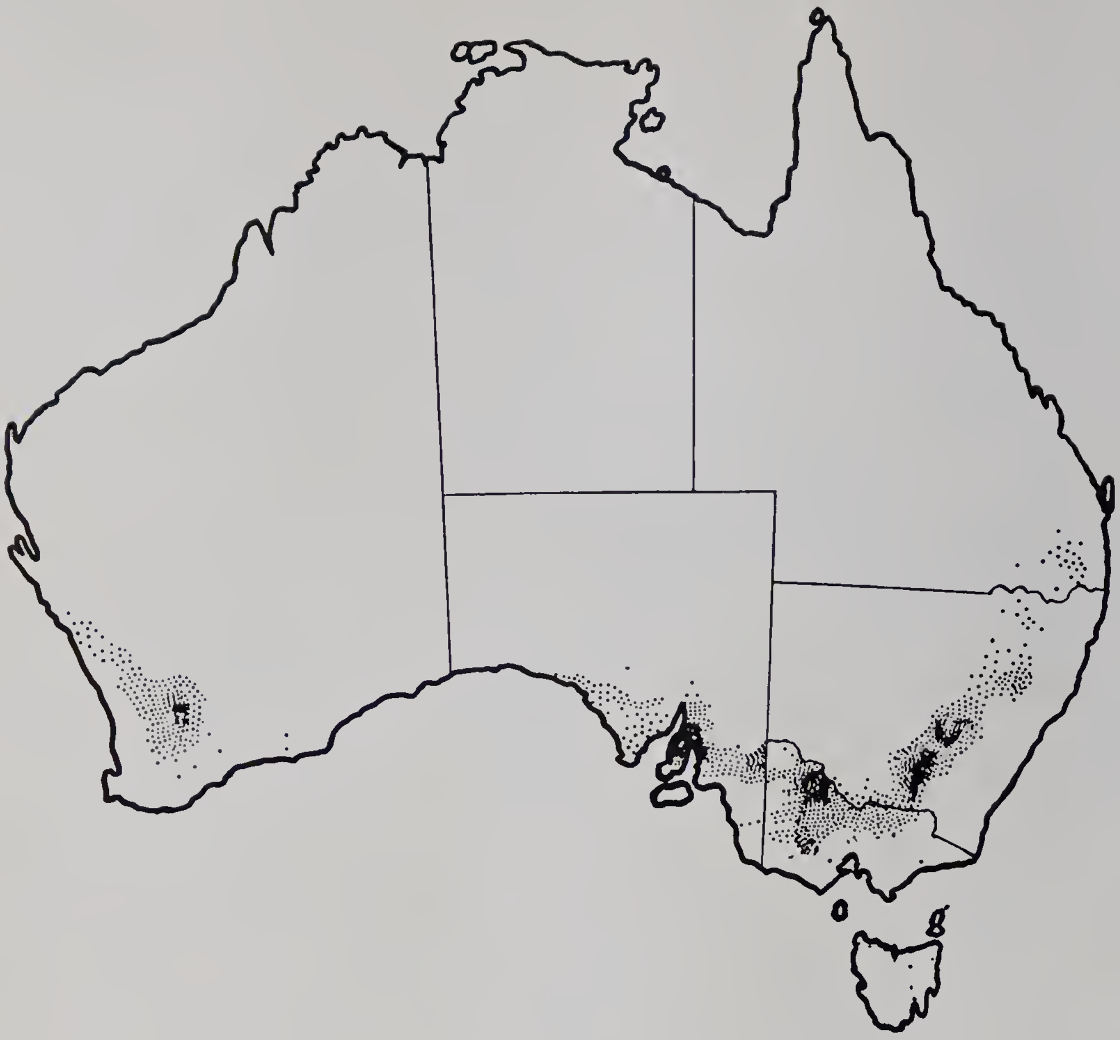
DROVERS MOVING CATTLE ON A STATION IN NEW SOUTH WALES

"CUTTING OUT" CATTLE TO BE SENT TO MARKET

this. But it is necessary to supply water for the cattle. Usually there are several artesian bores and water holes on each station. These are almost as good as fences, because in most instances no mob will go more than a day's travel from its regular water supply. But if a water hole or a huge earthen tank which has stored rain water dries up, the cattle will stray looking for water.

If a large mob stampedes, the danger is great, particularly at night. The Australian rides and shoots and cracks his fifteen-foot stock whip with the greatest skill when he is put in a dangerous position by a charging steer or a stampeding mob. But it is really his intelligent stock horse to which he trusts and sometimes owes his life. Each stockman values his stock horse second only to human life. Usually he has trained it himself.

CATTLE CROSSING A RIVER IN QUEENSLAND



THE AUSTRALIAN WHEAT BELT

CHAPTER EIGHT

AUSTRALIAN WHEAT

Not only does Australia have tremendous sheep and cattle stations, but it has very large wheat farms, many of which are thousands of acres in area. Huge quantities of wheat are grown in each of the five states on the mainland, the total production for the whole Commonwealth being nearly 200,000,000 bushels per year. This enables Australia, after supplying all of its own needs, to be one of the most important contributors to the world's wheat supply.

WHEAT IS PUT IN BAGS FOR SHIPMENT TO ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD

If you visit a large wheat farm in Australia, you will see many things about the raising and handling of wheat which are quite different from what you ever observed in American wheat-growing areas.

The farm you visit might be a score or more miles from the nearest railway. At most of the railway stations and sidings, there are no tall, boxlike elevators for storing the wheat. On the farms themselves there are no elevators either. But at harvest time you would be sure to notice along the railway siding piles of brown, well-filled sacks. Sometimes these are stacked twenty feet high and stretch for hundreds of yards like a high, thick wall along the track. Sometimes the bagged wheat stays there

HARVESTING WHEAT WITH COMBINES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

for a month or more, waiting until a train consisting of fifty or more flat railway cars pulls into the siding. Then commences the long journey to the nearest port, where ships wait to carry the grain to all parts of the world.

Because of Australia's wonderful climate, the wheat is left on the stalk until it is fully ripe and golden. There is little danger of a rainstorm beating it to the ground when it is almost ready for harvesting. Australians have developed a machine which is particularly suitable for harvesting this ripened wheat. It is a combine, a machine that cuts and threshes the grain while moving over the field.

STACKING WHEAT

In some parts of the country the filled bags are collected in lorries (wagons) that are drawn by horses or bullocks. In other parts a modern motor truck or tractor-drawn wagon is used to haul the loads of wheat to the railway.

In many districts another Australian invention, the stump-jump plow, has helped the farmer considerably. When a farmer takes up new land, it is usually covered with forest or scrub growth. He cuts down the trees and burns off everything except

A MODERN WHEAT ELEVATOR

WHEAT IS LOADED ONTO RAILWAY CARS TO BE TAKEN TO A PORT FOR OVERSEAS SHIPMENT

the logs that can provide fencing posts and other lumber. But he leaves the roots to be grubbed out later. He cannot lose a crop by waiting until he gets all those roots out. An ordinary plow would hit the stumps or the roots and be ruined. But the stump-jump plow has its shares fixed in the frame in such a way that the plowshares rise clear of the obstacle and are not damaged.

THOUSANDS OF ACRES IN AUSTRALIA ARE USED FOR GROWING FRUIT

CHAPTER NINE

FRUITGROWING IN AUSTRALIA

Although almost half of Australia lies within the tropics, we do not think of Australia, generally, as a tropical country. But Queensland and the Northern Territory, with their tropical climate, add much to the great variety of Australian fruit.

Fruitgrowing in Australia has long since passed the experimental stage. Today, many thousands of acres are planted with fruit trees and vines. In many places, fruitgrowing is combined with some other form of agricultural activity.

HARVESTING BANANAS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

A PEAR ORCHARD IN TASMANIA

The range of climate and the variety of fertile soils enable almost every kind of fruit (and vegetable, too) to be grown on this island continent. The Australian fruitgrower realizes the value of his climate. Millions of bushels of the following are produced annually: apples, quinces, oranges, bananas, pears, peaches, grapes, apricots, cherries, lemons, grapefruit, pineapples, plums, strawberries, raspberries, mulberries, almonds, olives, figs, dates, mangoes, pawpaws, mandarins, custard apples, guavas, passion fruit, watermelons, rock melons, coconuts, and loquats.

Fresh fruit and canned fruit from Australia find their way into the homes of England and other countries. From Queensland, in the Torrid Zone, special trains travel over twelve hundred miles to supply the people of Victoria, in the Temperate Zone, with tropical fruits.

Banana trees bear all the year round, and a good banana grove produces about one thousand bunches to the acre. Some bunches carry from twenty to twenty-five dozen bananas each.

Many Australians are very fond of two fruits with which Americans are hardly familiar. They are the pawpaw and the passion fruit. The pawpaw is a melonlike fruit, used in salads or as a sauce on ice cream and puddings. The passion fruit grows on a vine, and is about the size and color of a very large, dark-blue plum. In America the pawpaw is called the papaya.

From their irrigated areas South Australia and Victoria contribute most of the enormous quantity of dried fruits exported each year. The currant and raisin vines are grown in areas

PACKING BANANAS IN QUEENSLAND

AN IRRIGATION CANAL IN THE MURRAY VALLEY

which were once dry and suitable only for sheep raising. By a marvelous irrigation system water has been diverted from the Murray River to the vineyards, and now thousands of people make a good living growing fruit where once only sheep grazed. The sheep have been pushed farther back into the interior.

The apple, which American children like so much, is one of

Australia's most important fruits. Apples are grown in all of the Australian states.

Americans who are fond of blackberry pie will be interested to know that in Australia the blackberry bush is a noxious weed and is a great pest. If a farmer has it on his property, he must take steps to get rid of it. Acres of land and miles of fencing, even deserted farm buildings, have been covered by the quick-spreading blackberry bush.

APPLES ARE GROWN IN EVERY STATE IN AUSTRALIA

THE KALGOORLIE GOLD MINE IS PART OF AUSTRALIA'S "GOLDEN MILE"

CHAPTER TEN

MINING IN AUSTRALIA

In the early gold-rush days of Australia, romance and grim tragedy stalked together through the mulga scrub and across the plains and burning deserts. Riches came to some men in a day. Other men died in a waterless wilderness with a mocking mirage to laugh at their failure. Today there are still many prospectors who go out into the same wilderness, looking for the elusive gold.

Just as the name "Klondike" suggests gold and all the adventure of gold-rush days to Americans, so do Kalgoorlie and Coolgardie suggest the fevered trek across Australian plains in

A MINER AT A BROKEN HILL SILVER MINE IN NEW SOUTH WALES

search of gold. When nuggets of gold were to be found on top of the earth, and when gold could be panned from the sands of the streams, the great plains seemed small obstacles on the trek east from Perth and Fremantle. In Australia, as in America, the discovery of gold did much to attract people from other lands. In the ten years after 1851, the year when gold was discovered, the population grew from 405,000 to 1,146,000.

By 1909 and 1910 "The Golden Mile," which included Kalgoorlie and Coolgardie and eleven other mines, was producing the world's greatest yield of gold. Although "The Golden Mile" mines have lost their gift of glory, gold is still obtained from their low-grade ores. There are many other rich gold fields throughout the island continent, and gold is still a very important mineral in Australia.

369
308

MINING COAL NEAR NEWCASTLE

While gold stands for glamour in any country, coal stands for comfort and usefulness. Australia's deposits of black and brown coal are her greatest mineral wealth. Fortunately the main black coal deposits are situated close to the largest city, Sydney, and are thus available for industrial purposes.

The brown coal is found chiefly in the state of Victoria. Although inferior to the black coal, it is valuable for the production of electricity. It is also made into briquettes for heating purposes.

Lead, copper, zinc, and silver are also important minerals in Australia. The principal silver field is at Broken Hill, in New South Wales. At one time it was nothing but a sheep station.

DIGGING BROWN COAL FROM AN OPEN PIT MINE

Iron ore is most valuable if found near coal, because the process of smelting is then not too expensive. However, the rich deposits at Iron Knob, in South Australia, have had a tremendous influence on Australian industry. Iron Knob is really a mountain of iron ore. The ore is shipped cheaply by the water route from the port of Whyalla to the huge smelters at Newcastle, New South Wales, which is the greatest coal-mining district in Australia.

Some precious stones are found in Australia, but of most value

AN IRON MINER PREPARING TO BLAST

BLAST FURNACES AT NEWCASTLE

economically is a semiprecious gem found only in Australia. It is the black opal. Its colors are much deeper than the Mexican milky opal, and the brilliant, flashing "fire" against the deep blue is very beautiful.

The most famous opal mines are at Coober Pedy in South Australia, and at the Lightning Ridge and White Cliffs fields in New South Wales. At the latter place, only the blue-green opals are found. The miners "gouge" for the opal in veins of "potch" in the soft, chalky ridges.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

AUSTRALIA'S FOREST WEALTH

The visitor to Australia soon learns of the many kinds of eucalyptus trees, and if he goes inland he sees huge areas of land covered by mallee scrub and saltbush. But the thing most noticeable, after a year's stay in Australia, is the fact that the native trees are green the whole year round. Certainly, the leaves fall to the ground, but while they are doing so other leaves are growing, taking their places. There is no regular season for raking and burning leaves, as in America.

The eucalyptus trees, popularly known as gum trees because of the gum which exudes through the bark, grow in more than 90 per cent of the timber country. This timber land is located chiefly along the eastern coastline, in the southern portion of the mainland, in Tasmania, and in the southwestern corner of Western Australia.

The mountain slopes and well-watered coastal regions of the east are covered with forests that are so dense and luxurious it is almost impossible to see the sky above. It is in this "big scrub" that some of the tallest trees in the world are to be found. There is still some controversy as to whether California or Australia can claim the world's tallest trees. In Victoria, New South Wales, and California many trees well over three hundred feet in height

EUCALYPTUS TRE

LUMBERING IS ONE OF AUSTRALIA'S IMPORTANT INDUSTRIES

have been found. Some of the Australian gums *(Eucalyptus regnans)* are vast, straight columns, often rising 150 feet without branching.

There are about three hundred varieties of eucalyptus trees, all of which shed their bark, much as a snake sheds its skin. Going through "the bush," the visitor from abroad might think the trees had been injured. Long strips of brown bark hang down from trunks and branches of the stringy-bark, one of the most valuable eucalypts. Huge patches of bluish-white bark fall with great thuds from the trunks of the sentinel-like blue gums. The shedding of bark by eucalypts is an annual occurrence. The new white underbark is left gleaming in the sunshine, and on a bright moonlight night gives the trees a weird, ghostly appearance.

The thick, leathery leaves are full of oil. Many American children know the spicy smell of eucalyptus oil, which is often used as a medicine.

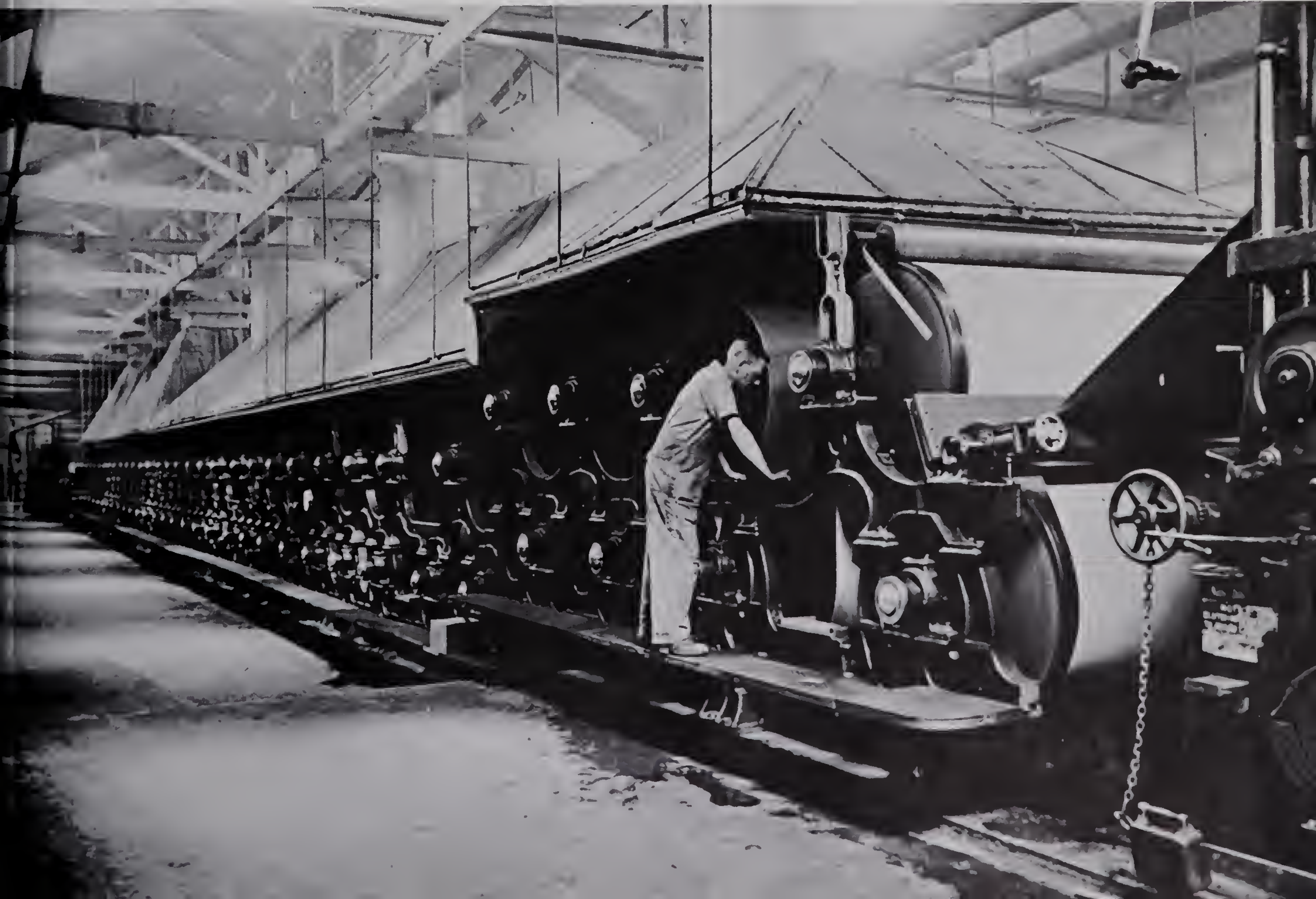
PREPARING TO FELL A TREE

"BREAKING" A LOG INTO "FLITCHES" WITH
A VERTICAL FRAME SAW

These eucalyptus trees have high commercial value as hardwoods and are exported to all parts of the world. They provide railway sleepers, or "ties," which last at least twenty-five years. The jarrah of Western Australia is one of the few white-ant-resisting timbers. It has been known to withstand fire to a remarkable degree. The karri planking of a dismantled ship thirty years old was sawed into blocks and used for street paving. Occasionally, when new wharves are being built on the Thames River, in England, the old eucalyptus piles are hauled up out of the mud, in which they have been embedded for forty years, and used for constructional work. Several of these hardwoods take a polish and show a grain as beautiful as any furniture timber.

Much of the paper used in Australia is made in pulp mills which get their pulpwood from Australia's millions of acres of wooded land.

MAKING PAPERBOARD FROM PULPWOOD OF AUSTRALIA'S VAST FORESTS



PEARLING LUGGERS IN PORT

CHAPTER TWELVE

THE FISHING INDUSTRY

Whether it is a small boy catching his first fish with a string on the end of a stick, or an experienced fisherman catching fighting tuna with hundreds of dollars' worth of modern equipment, the thrill of landing the fish is something to remember.

But if landing the fish might mean securing a priceless gem, perhaps you can imagine what the thrill would be then. If we could watch some of the pearl fishers hopefully prying open the large, bowl-like oyster shells and see the gleam in their eyes when a pearl or a large "blister" is found inside, we should have some idea. Pearls are often found in these blisters. The pearl fishers do not expect or even hope for one pearl of value from each fishing trip, although they might hope for several from each fishing season. It is the pearl shell which pays the wages of the workers.

Fishing for pearl shell, Trochus shell, and *bêche-de-mer* is an important part of the Australian fishing industry. "Pearling" is carried on along the northern and northwestern coasts of Australia, and particularly at Broome, Darwin, and Thursday Island. Australia is the world's largest producer of mother-of-pearl shell. Most of it is shipped to the United States for manufacture into buttons and buckles and a large number of other articles.

The fishing is done by experienced divers. These divers are

A DIVER GATHERING PEARL SHELLS

mostly Asians. They can stand the pressure of the water better than white men because they know how to lower themselves gradually into deep water. This prevents paralysis. They wear diving suits which have long tubes attached. These tubes supply air so that the divers may stay down for long periods of time and fill their baskets with the oyster shells, which lie along the ocean bottom.

Along the coast of New South Wales, salmon, tuna, scallops,

SORTING PEARL SHELLS

and mackerel are caught and canned, but the industry is not large. For the most part, trawlers and launches are used for the fishing.

Oysters are found in the inlets. They also are cultivated in the outlets of the rivers. These oysters live on sticks or frames which are stuck in the mud.

Along the south and west coasts lobsters are caught. Many of the lobster tails are exported to the United States.

SACKING OYSTER SHELLS

EMPTYING A LOBSTER TRAP

Although turtles are not used as food to any great extent by white Australians, the aborigines consider turtle meat a delicacy. Many of the turtles are large enough to carry a man on their shell backs as they crawl slowly along the sandy beach. The meat is very good and turtle soup is relished. Hundreds of the huge turtles may be seen along the beaches of northern Australia, and the aborigines are kept well supplied with the eggs, which are laid in the warm sand.

ABORIGINES HAULING A TURTLE INTO THEIR CANOE

A SPEAR FISHERMAN

Fishing for sport in Australian waters is very exciting. Murray River cod weighing one hundred pounds or more are sometimes landed. In hundreds of bays along the coastline, there is excellent salt-water fishing, the marlin being a coveted prize. Giant sharks weighing more than one thousand pounds are sometimes landed by experts who have traveled halfway around the world to enjoy the sport.

SPANISH MACKEREL CAUGHT NEAR
THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

BP
Schweppes
Coca-Cola
CORIO
WHISKY
KEEP LEFT
BSW 082
BDL 536

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

TRANSPORTATION IN AUSTRALIA

The different ways in which people go from one place to another tell us much about their development in the world of commerce. If we visit a country and find airplanes and motorcars but never see a horse-drawn wagon, we know that that country is probably one of the great industrial nations of the world. But if we visit a country and see narrow, winding roads and the slow-moving oxcart or wagon, we know that the people of that country prefer working on the land and fashioning the things they need by hand.

In Australia we may see both. The cities know the hum of factories, the blare of sirens, and the tooting of horns. The parking lots are filled, and the airports are busy. But in the districts beyond the cities, which border the coast, there are still many farms where horse-drawn machinery does most of the work, and where horse-drawn vehicles are the chief means of transportation. In the wheat lands sometimes twelve or sixteen horses draw the combine-thresher. Driving along the grassy track over the plains, one might meet a huge lorry (wagon) drawn by twelve heavy draft horses.

A BUSY STREET IN SYDNEY. MODERN HIGHWAYS LEAD FROM SYDNEY TO MOST PARTS OF NEW SOUTH WALES

A JET AIRLINER AT SYDNEY

Going farther along that same track, one might meet a bullock-drawn lorry piled high with brown sacks full of wheat, or square bales of wool. Ask the bullocky why he uses bullocks instead of horses, and he will point to the salt bush and say, "Bullocks will eat that; horses won't."

The hum of an airplane might interrupt your conversation. The bullocky looks up and waves his long whip in salute. It might be the plane from a cattle station a hundred miles back in the interior. Many station managers use airplanes for paying daily or weekly visits to the nearest town. Many of the managers also use planes for inspecting their huge sheep and cattle stations.

On the other hand, it might be an ambulance plane carrying a patient from a lonely homestead outback to a city hospital, or a doctor being rushed to some sufferer five hundred miles from the nearest railway. Then, again, it might be a mail plane.

A TEAM OF OXEN HAULING LOGS

QANTAS
CITY OF HOBART
TAI
TAA
TAA

THE "PRINCESS OF TASMANIA" CARRIES PASSENGERS BETWEEN TASMANIA AND VICTORIA

Most Australians have never seen a team of a dozen or more camels pulling a wagon loaded high with bales of wool, or a string of fifty or sixty camels loaded with bales of wool or boxes of groceries. But twenty years ago this was a familiar sight to many Australians who lived outback. Camels carried heavy loads on the sandy plains where there were no roads, and water holes were miles apart. Today dependable motor trucks have replaced these camel trains.

The principal means of transportation in Australia is the railway. Motor services run over many routes in conjunction with railways to provide regular transportation to districts not served by the railways. Nearly all of the railways are government-owned. In the cities there are modern trams (streetcars), and harbor and river ferryboats.

A fleet of freight and luxurious passenger steamers is normally in operation around the southern and eastern coasts from Fremantle, in Western Australia, to Cairns, in northern Queensland.

MODERN DIESEL ENGINES ARE NOW USED ON AUSTRALIAN RAILROADS

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

THE ANIMALS OF AUSTRALIA

Most children know that Australia is the home of the kangaroo. Because the kangaroo is found in no other country in the world, Australia has been called "kangaroo land." Australians are very fond of this large, ungainly animal that jumps when it runs, and stands up on its hind legs while it sits on its big, strong tail. The female (doe) has a vest pocket, or pouch, in which to carry its baby, or "joey," as all young kangaroos are called. Australia has several other animals that carry their young in pouches. Such animals are called marsupials.

The koala is perhaps the most amusing and lovable of all Australian animals. An American thought so, and returned to his country to make toys to look like the koala. He called them "Teddy bears," and American children love the toy as much as Australian children love the real koala. But the koala does not make a good pet because he sleeps all day in the crotch of a eucalyptus or gum tree. At night he sees well, and it is then that he prowls around searching for certain eucalyptus trees, the tender leaves of which he likes to eat. In fact, he will eat nothing else. That is another reason why he does not make a good pet — unless you have a tall gum tree growing in your backyard.

A MOTHER KANGAROO AND "JOEY"

A DINGO — AUSTRALIAN WILD DOG

The koala is a marsupial, and has only one baby at a time. The baby lives in the pouch until it is old enough to ride on the mother's back, pickaback fashion. A mother koala and her baby make an amusing picture, especially when the mother falls asleep holding her youngster in her arms much as a human mother might.

The dingo, or wild dog, is one of the few carnivorous animals found in Australia. Therefore, it is one of the animals that is feared by other animals in the Australian bush. The dingo hunts

A KOALA BEAR AND HER CUB

the kangaroo but does not always get the best of the fight. The kangaroo will always try to escape by taking great twenty-foot hops across the plains. If he is finally cornered, he will back himself up against a tree and wait for the dingo to attack. Then he will catch the dingo with his small front paws, hold him off, and with one hind leg give a ripping kick and tear the dingo open with his strong claws. The dingo is a killer, and is dreaded by the sheep station owners as much as the coyote is by America's western farmers. In several Australian states the government pays a bounty for each dingo skin brought in.

A PLATYPUS

A WOMBAT OR "AUSTRALIAN BADGER"

The platypus is the most interesting of all the wild creatures in Australia. It is a peculiar mammal whose habits remind you of fish and birds. It is covered with fur, and when grown it is about the size of a cat. It has a bill like a duck, four webbed feet to swim with like a duck swims, and a tail to send itself along in the water like a fish. It can walk across land or on the bottom of a creek. It lays eggs, hatches the young, and then suckles the young as all other mammals do.

The wombat, sometimes called "the Australian badger," is a burrowing marsupial. It sleeps during the day and hunts at night.

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

AUSTRALIA'S STRANGE BIRDS

When walking along a lonely bush track, a visitor to Australia might be startled to hear a loud, rollicking laugh come from the branches of a eucalyptus tree. He would be startled but not frightened, because the kookaburra's laugh is jolly, boisterous, and catching. Another name for the kookaburra is "laughing jackass." The visitor seeing Jacko, as he is sometimes called, would be considerably amused and would wish to join in the laughter.

Jacko is a little larger than a pigeon, but he is very much noisier, and much more useful, too. He has a large head and a long, strong beak. He has large, bright eyes and looks very impudent. The kookaburra kills snakes for fun and also for a good breakfast. It is then that he likes most to indulge in his long-drawn "ha . . . ha . . . ha." One might think that he would have little breath left after flying a few hundred feet into the air with a struggling snake, letting it fall to the ground, and repeating the operation several times. But when the snake's back is finally broken by the dropping, Jacko always has breath enough to celebrate by laughing uproariously.

There is another bird which might startle a visitor, but this one keeps mostly to the flat Australian plains instead of to the bush. The visitor would hardly guess its call to be that of a bird.

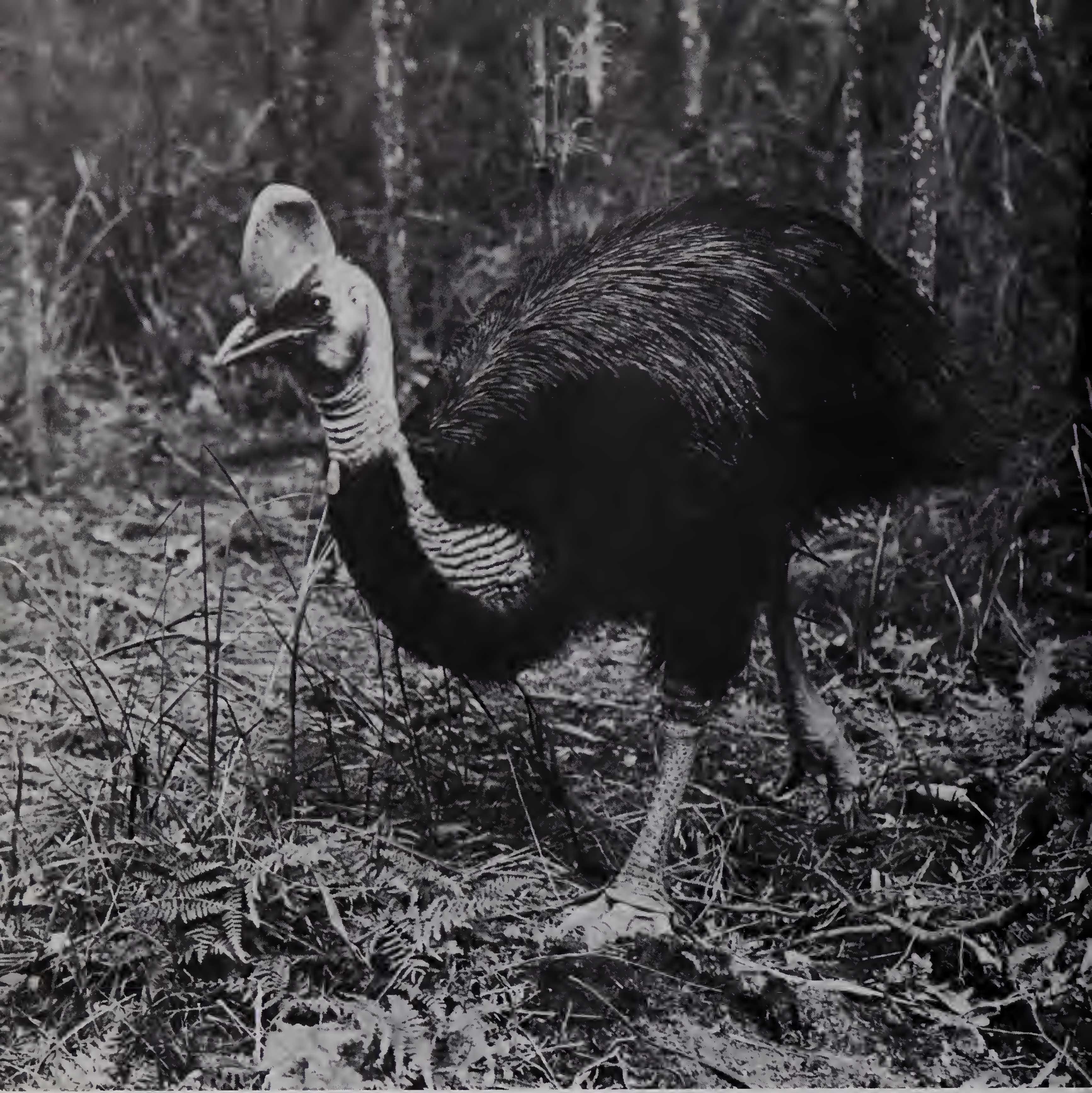
A KOOKABURRA

A YOUNG EMU

It is a long, deep "boom . . . boom . . . boom," which carries far across the plains. If an aborigine hears that "boom . . . boom," he grabs his spear and hurries toward it — and he is almost certain to have emu meat for his supper.

The emu is a very large bird, often pictured on Australian postage stamps. It is a cousin to the ostrich, but it is not nearly

A MOTHER EMU WITH NINE CHICKS



A CASSOWARY

as beautiful. The emu is one of the few flightless birds. Another large, flightless bird found in Australia is the cassowary.

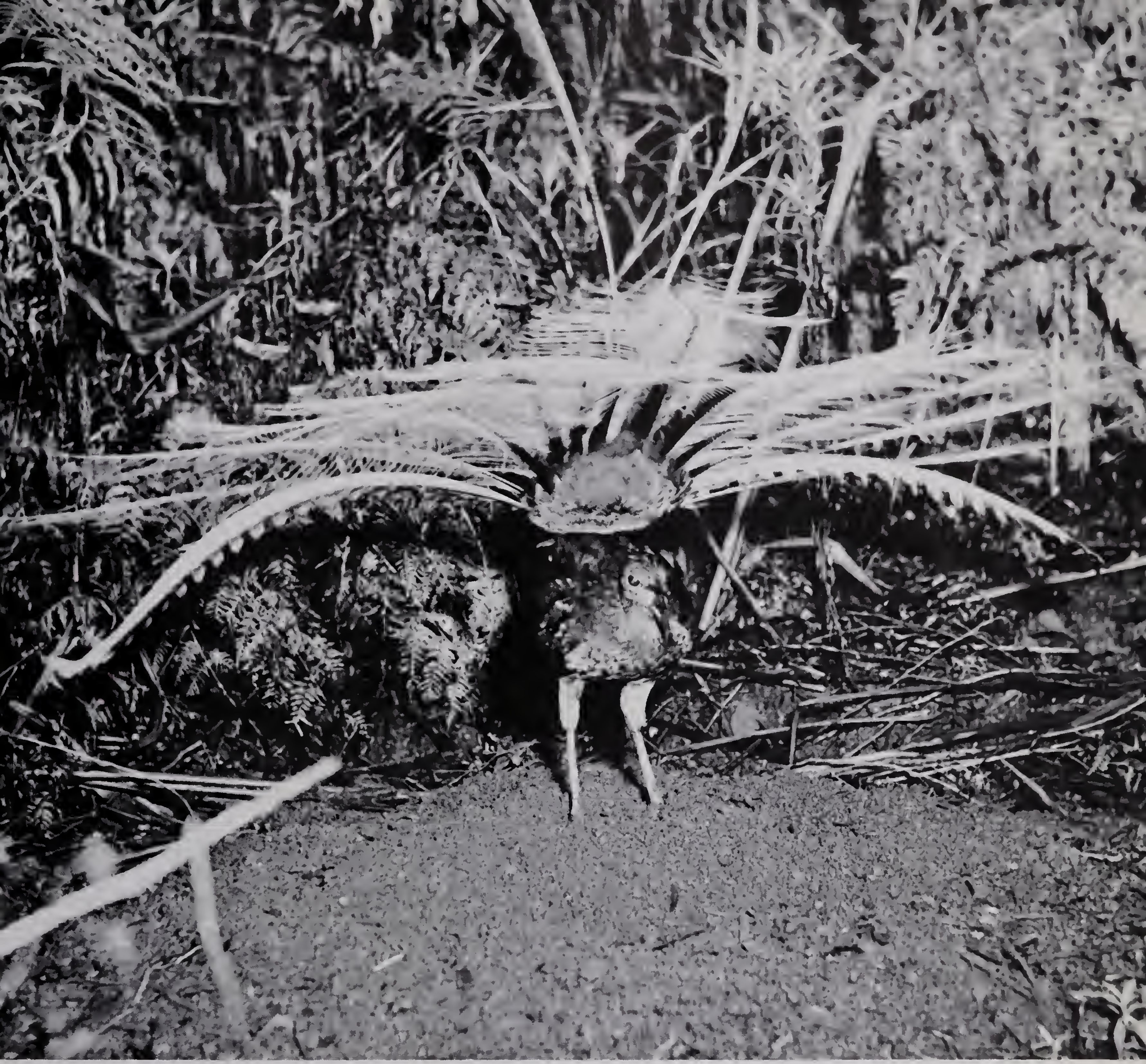
Emus usually feed in flocks, and only during the mating season do they go off in pairs. Then they scoop out a hollow nest in the ground, or they make a nest on a bed of herbage which they have trampled down flat. There the female emu lays from seven to eighteen large, green eggs, bigger than baseballs. The male emu takes his turn at sitting on the eggs until they hatch. In fact, father emu performs most of the task of incubating.

The only Australian member of the crane family is the native companion or "brolga," as the aborigines call it.

AN AUSTRALIAN CRANE

The Australian bush — whether it be the dense scrub of the coastal area or the open forest of the inland plains — is gay with the bright colors of a large number of different birds. There are thousands of white cockatoos and pink-and-white galahs. Crimson-and-blue, green-and-yellow, and scarlet-and-green parrots abound. The famous lovebirds of American petshops are

A WHITE COCKATOO



A LYREBIRD

known as "budgerigars" in their native Australian bush. In the bush there are also countless willie wagtails, diamond sparrows, finches, wild canaries, and other small birds too numerous to mention.

The most musical bird of all is the lyrebird. It was so named because of the shape and markings of its large, handsome tail, and because its song is truly as lovely as the music of the lyre.

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS AND FLOWERS

Some visitors to Australia would be most impressed with the many flowering trees. Of course, the island continent has beautiful orchards of fruit trees which flower at their proper season and turn the fruit farms into gay gardens. But Australia also has hundreds of varieties of eucalyptus trees which bear brightly colored flowers. The latter grow in large clusters and almost blot out the green of the foliage. Most of the Australian cities have beautiful public parks in which the walks are bordered by the gay, flowering eucalypts. Australian eucalypts have been grown successfully in South Africa and in California.

A species of Eucalyptus which gives much trouble to some Australian farmers is the mallee. It is a dwarf eucalypt with slender stems that grow in bunches, making it look like a bush rather than a tree. Before the land can be cultivated the farmer must get rid of the mallee. Sometimes he breaks it down with a huge horse-drawn roller (sometimes an old boiler) and then burns it off. The early settlers tell many interesting stories about being lost in the mallee and about their other struggles with the dense scrub.

EUCALYPTUS TREES

Australia has more than five hundred varieties of Acacia. Of this family, the wattle is the best known. Many Americans buy the lovely yellow wattle in florist shops. Its flowery heads are soft and feathery. It is so fragrant and beautiful that it has been chosen as the national flower of Australia, although many Australians think the brilliant, crimson waratah should be.

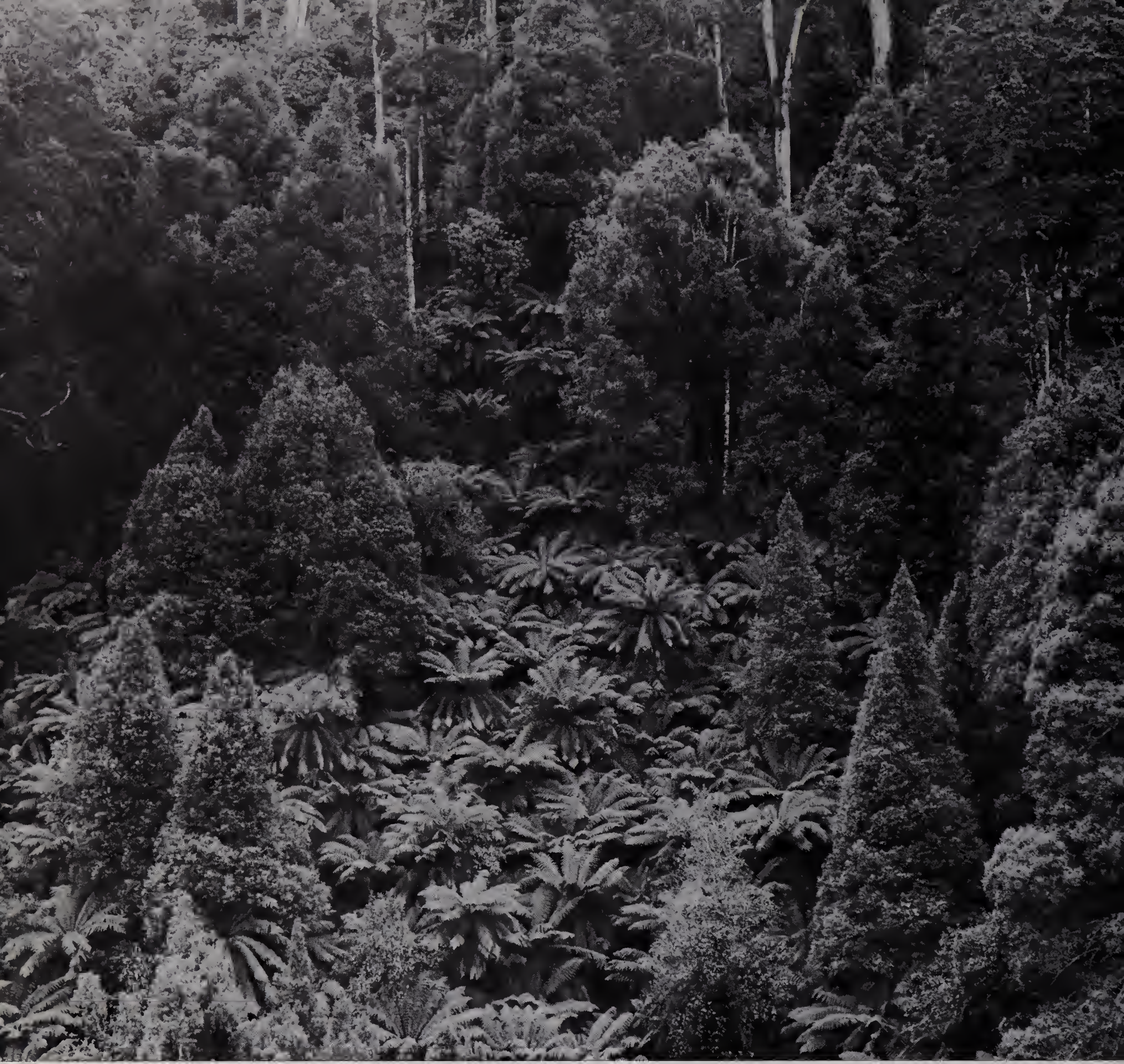
Each Australian state has a wealth of wildflowers. In the spring, parts of Western Australia, in particular, are carpeted with a blaze of color. The bush is a glorious riot of the most vivid red, blue, purple, and green blooms. These include orchids, boronias, wax plants, pitcher plants, the bottle brush, the kangaroo

GIRL AMID BLOSSOMS OF ACACIA

A TREE FERN

paw, and more than seventy other species of ever-present flowers. Young Australians take special delight in gathering the crimson Christmas bells. These are bell-like flowers that droop in bunches from slender stems.

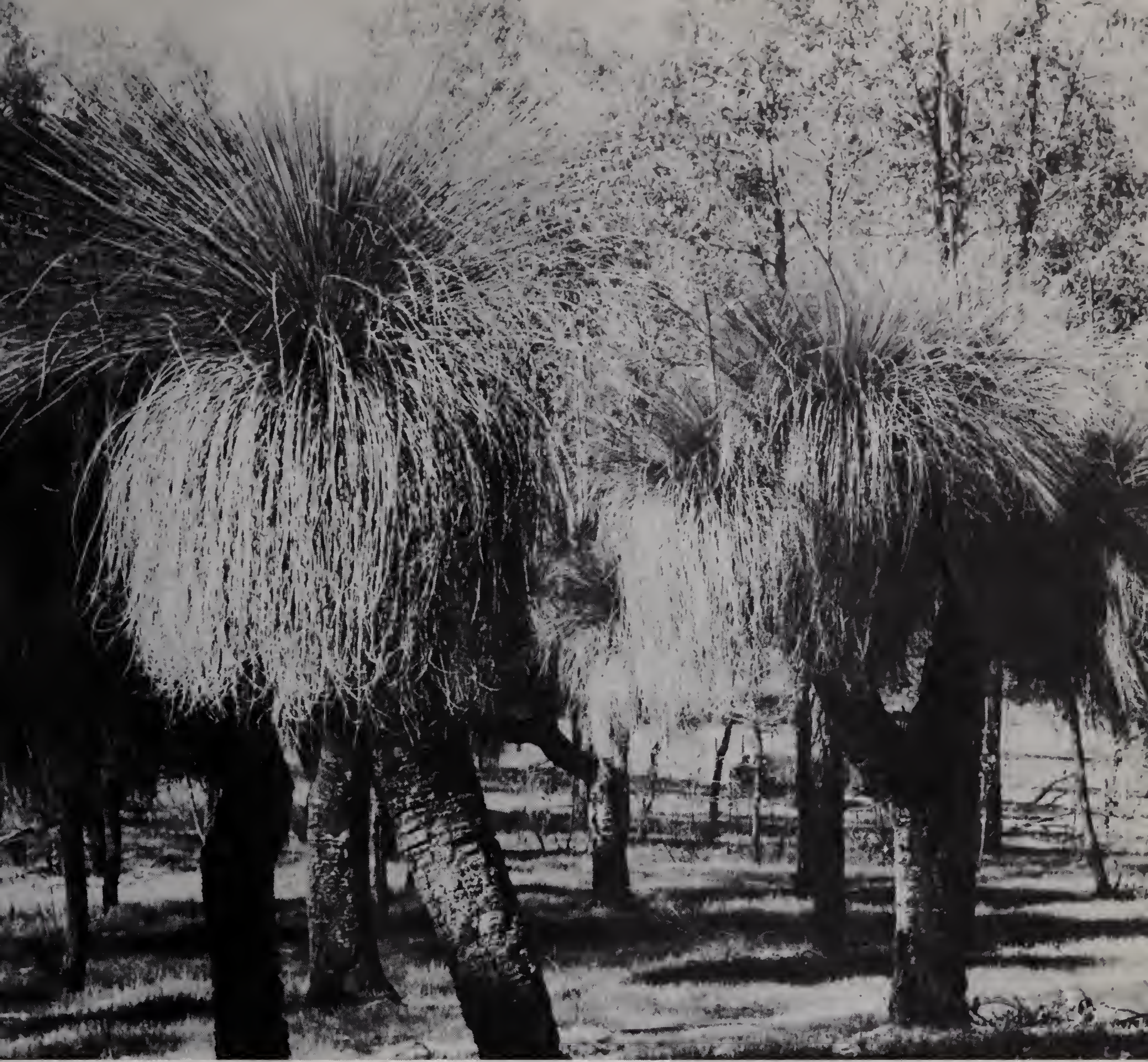
The Australian bush is famous for its ferns. They range from the low sword-leafed ferns and the more delicate featherlike fern fronds to the cabbage tree palms, twenty to one hundred



A FERN-GULLY IN AN AUSTRALIAN FOREST

feet high. The tall ferns — so tall that they are called tree ferns — help to make a trip through the Australian bush unforgettable. The ferns grow on the top of perfectly straight trunks that resemble tree trunks, and the fronds look like waving plumes. Some parts of the bush are jungles of tree ferns.

Out on the Australian plains may be seen the strange blackboy



BLACKBOY TREES

tree, which seems more like a bush than a tree. Its long leaves hang gracefully, like slender grasses. They grow from one head, and some say it gets its name from the likeness of this head to a black boy's head with long, unkempt hair. From the head of the tree yacca gum is obtained. It is used in the manufacture of varnish.

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